

SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN
MAR 15 1957
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SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

Die Amptelike Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

Deel 24

Januarie 1957

No. 3

ONS „BUIITEMURSE” BEDRYWIGHED

DIE BENAMING „buitemuurs” word hier gebruik vir ondernemings in die belang van ons beroep as beroep, buite die dagtaak van afsonderlike biblioteke: liaison met ander professionele en bevolkingsgroepe, publikasies, bibliografiese werk, e.d.m. Veel daarvan gaan uit van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging en sy ondergeskikte liggame; maar veel word en kan gedoen word deur afsonderlike inrigtings en bibliotekarisse. Belangrike werk is reeds gelewer. Tog is daar heelwat ondernemings waaroor al dikwels gepraat en gedink is, maar wat nooit aangepak of voltooi, of voldoende ontwikkel is nie.

Laat ons die veld ’n slag in oënskouw neem.

Dit kom voor dat ons as bibliotekarisse baie meer kan doen om ons as professionele groep in die buitewêreld te laat geld. Behoort ons as boekmense nie meer kontak te hê met ander boekmense nie? ’n Mooi voorbeeld van wat wel gedoen is, is die onderhandelings van ons subkomitee i.s. die inbind van boeke, en ook van die provinsiale biblioteke, met ’n uitgewersfirma en ’n boekbindersfirma, as gevolg waarvan die gehalte van die herbinding van boeke aansienlik verbeter is, en nuwe uitgawes van die betrokke uitgewer in versterkte biblioteekband verkrygbaar is. Ook het bibliotekarisse al op verskillende geleenthede op vrugbare wyse met uitgewers saamgewerk by die organisering van boekweke.

Daar is al dikwels oor gepraat in hoever bibliotekarisse uitgewers kan beïnvloed i.v.m. die keuse van boeke wat hulle uitgee. Saamwerking op hierdie gebied kom tans op klein skaal tot stand deurdat die waarborg van ’n provinsiale biblioteek dat hy ’n paar honderd eksemplare van ’n boek sal aankoop die uitgewer soms beïnvloed in sy besluit om die uitgawe te waag. Maar kan ons nie ook die taak aanpak om ’n lysie saam te stel van onderwerpe waaroor, volgens ons ondervinding, geen bevredigende boeke bestaan nie, en dan met die nodige waarborg uitgewers aanmoedig om opdragte aan bevoegde skrywers te gee nie?

En kan ons nie ons gewig in die skaal gooi om *Ons eie boek* te laat herlewe, of ’n plaasvervanger op te rig nie? Dit was ’n unieke middel om bibliotekarisse, studente, en die algemene publiek ’n aanduiding te gee van die inhoud van die belangrikste nuwe publikasies, en om ’n kritiese sin aan te kweek. Die Staatsbiblioteek se maandelikse lysie, en die lysie in die *Kwartaalblad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek* verskaf natuurlik volledige lysie, maar daarnaas bestaan wel deeglik die behoefte aan beskrywende en kritiese aankondigings, en letterkundige artikels. Vir ons bibliotekarisse word hierdie leemte nou gedeeltelik gevul deur die kort aantekeninge wat elke kwartaal in *Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke* verskyn. Maar vir die andere bly daar ’n betreurenswaardige gemis. Moontlik sou die voorgestelde nuwe blad volkome tweetalig kan wees, met gelyke aandag aan Afrikaanse en Engelse publikasies.

'n Ander toekomsbeeld is 'n populêr boekkundige tydskrif op 'n breër basis vir die verbruik van die leek. Dit sou, behalwe resensies en kritiese en biografiese stukke, ook artikels en nuusberigte bevat oor b.v. biblioteekopleiding, fotografiese hulpmiddels in die biblioteek, die geskiedenis van goedkoop uitgawes soos die Penguins, m.a.w. oor enigiets wat met die ontstaan, die groei en die lewe van die boek in die samelewing te doen het.

Dergelike mymerings stuur ons gedagtes terug na die voorstel wat enige jare gelede op een van ons konferensies gedoen is, dat ons ons moet beywer vir die oprigting van 'n nasionale boekeraad volgens die patroon van die National Book League in Brittanje. 'n Paar voelhorings is uitgesteek, maar dit het glo gestuit teen gebrek aan belangstelling. Miskien is die tyd nog nie ryp daarvoor nie. Heel moontlik sal die verslag van die Kommissie van ondersoek i.v.m. aanstootlike lektuur, wat in sy uitvoerige vraelys etlike aanverwante sake aangeroei het, die pad oopslaan vir daadwerklke optrede en saamwerking.

Intussen kan ons die idee in gedagte hou, en die grond voorberei deur hier en daar 'n klein begin te maak. *Africana aantekeninge en nuus* en die *Kwartaalblad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek*, wat deur bibliotekarisse beheer word, maar ook deur bydraers en lesers buite biblioteekkringe ondersteun word, asook die jonger *Mousaion* floreer op hulle eie gebied. Kan ons nie ook iets wat in wyer kringe opgang sal maak, tot stand bring nie? Van tyd tot tyd verskyn daar 'n artikel deur een van ons kollegas in 'n tydskrif van algemene aard, maar baie meer kan gedoen word.

Wat betref publikasies binne ons eie beroepskringe is daar tekens van oplewing en groei. Een vir een verskyn nuwe name onder die bydraers in *Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke*. In die laaste tiental jare het enkele biblioteekkundige boeke die lig gesien: o.a. *The school library*, deur 'n groep Kaapse bibliotekarisse in die veertiger jare saamgestel, *Boekopvoeding-Book education* uitgegee deur die Biblioteekdiens van die Transvaalse Onderwys-departement, mej. Mews se brosjure *Books are tools*, en die onlangs verskene *Titelbeskrywing* deur P. C. Coetzee e.a. Afsonderlike biblioteke en organisasies stel ook telkens verslae en memoranda op wat selfs buite hul eie kringe van nut is, b.v. die Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens se *Vereiste standaarde vir openbare*

biblioteke en *Handboek vir openbare biblioteekbeplanning: kinderafdeling*.

Wat ons egter wel mis in ons beroepspers is, ten eerste meer volledige nuusberigte, en ten tweede meer polemieë. In die ou dae is aanstellings tot senior poste gereëld in *Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteke* aangekondig, asook berigte oor nuwe geboue, en nuwe ondernemings deur afsonderlike biblioteke. Wat teenswoordig verskyn is min, en meestal voortvloeiende uit die pen van die redakteur, en die leemte in ons professionele geskiedkundige rekords word by die dag groter.

Dit is merkwaardig dat daar hoegenaamd nooit 'n brief aan die redaksie van ons twee amptelike blaaië verskyn nie. In elke verteenwoordigende beroepsblad vind mens gedagtewisseling: kommentaar op gebeurtenisse in die beroepswêreld, blyke van ingenomenheid met artikels wat verskyn het, of aanvulling van inligtings wat gegee is.

Ons tel onder ons lede 'n vinnig toenemende aantal knap, geesdriftige jongmense wat binne hulle eie werkkringe uitstekende werk verrig. Waarom is daar nie meer wat uit beroepsywer die drang voel om na die pen te gryp nie?

Op die gebied van bibliografiese werk kan ons behaë skeep in wat reeds tot stand gebring is: die bovermelde lys van nuwe publikasies, die *Catalogue of Union periodicals*, die *Repertorium van Suid-Afrikaanse tydskrifartikels*, die reeks *Grey bibliographies* uitgegee deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, en die bibliografieë saamgestel deur die studente van die Skool vir Biblioteekwese aan die Kaapstadse Universiteit. Die Johannesburgse Openbare Biblioteek het, behalwe die tydskrifrepertorium, altyd die een of ander bibliografiese onderneming aan die gang, waaronder die nuttige lys van werke in Bantoetale, die lys van ou landkaarte van Afrika, en die onlangse lys van skipbreuke om die Suid-Afrikaanse kus. Ook is hulle besig met 'n indeks van Afrikaanse gedigte en een van Suid-Afrikaanse portrette.

Dit is merkwaardig dat een van die grootste bibliografiese ondernemings deur 'n letterkundige en Africana-versamelaar, nie deur 'n bibliotekaris nie aangepak is en voortgesit word: Dr. Nienaber se *Bibliografie van Afrikaanse boeke*.

Maar daar is nog 'n groot aantal bibliografiese desiderata. Ons noem 'n paar:

- (i) 'n Supplement tot Mendelssohn se *South African bibliography*. Dit is 'n groot onderneming, wat veel oorleg sal vereis, en vermoedelik van die Parlementsbiblioteek met die samewerking van ander biblioteke sal moet uitgaan.
- (ii) 'n Indeks van tydskrifartikels voor 1940. 'n Kollektiewe bladwyser op die belangrikste negentiende en vroeg-twintigste eeuse tydskrifte – *Het Zuid-Afrikaanse tijdschrift*, *The Cape monthly magazine*, *Die Patriot*, *Die Brandwag*, *Die Huisgenoot* en nog baie ander – sou van groot waarde wees vir die historikus en die letterkundige.
- (iii) 'n Alfabetiese register op die Staatskoerant. Hieroor het ons al so dikwels by die owerhede aangeklop dat ons die saak voorlopig as verlore moet opgee.
- (iv) Sekere belangrike enkelwerke mis ook 'n register. Dr. Killie Campbell het 'n nuttige taak verrig met haar afgerolde indeks op Bird se *Annals of Natal*. 'n Jonger werk waarvan die waarde as naslaanwerk verhoog sou word as dit van 'n register voorsien was, is Van den Heever en Pienaar se *Kultuurgeskiedenis van die Afrikaner*.

Voorwaar, daar is volop materiaal vir diegene wat hulle stokperdjies op bibliotekariese gebied wil soek.

ELIZABETH HARTMANN

THE DECLINE OF THE WEST

“Long before the stage in the history of culture at which men learned to read and write, they were, as the cave drawings of the Stone Age still show to-day, bewitched by the magic of pictures and the fascination of myth. Pictures are immediate, as in a dream: they are the first and most elementary, and at the same time the most naïve form of experience and statement. They come up to us, presupposing passivity, just as language signifies activity. In pictures we experience the world: in the mind, we apprehend it. An age which is turning away from reading and towards pictures is, then, fundamentally an age of decreasing intellectual activity. Reading and thinking are far too troublesome and exacting. In pictures the world is presented with the original imitated: and perhaps we shall be able to be directly present at the next world-revolution in the comfort of our homes, watching the television set.”

HORST KRUGER

(Quoted in *Universitas*, v. 1, no. 1, 1956)

DR. KILLIE CAMPBELL BECOMES AN HONORARY FELLOW

President's address to the S. A. Library Association's Conference, Durban, 24 September 1956.

IT IS ONE of the privileges of holding this year's Conference in Durban to have the opportunity of meeting and paying homage to Dr. Killie Campbell, whose name, besides being associated with a celebrated Bougainvillea, is very well known to librarians, historians and collectors of Africana throughout Southern Africa.

Dr. Killie Campbell's library is probably one of the largest private libraries of Africana in existence. It is a library in the broad sense, as distinct from a mere collection, and it is devoted to Africana in the broad sense also. It contains over 25,000 books and pamphlets dealing with the history, ethnology and anthropology of the whole continent south of the Sahara. Practically all the standard works of early travellers are represented, and there are extensive runs of periodicals and sets of early government publications from the colonies and republics. And this is by no means all. There are also paintings and prints, and a unique collection of original manuscripts, together with typewritten transcriptions of many others, and also papers of many Natal families. And I know of at least one other remarkable item: a dictaphone recording, an hour and a half in extent, of Pika Zulu, grandson of Panda, declaiming the Zulu history as told by his father and grandfather.

Let me not be misunderstood if I say that this is more than just the library of a connoisseur or a bibliophile, although its shelves do in fact contain a great many outstanding collector's treasures. Dr. Killie Campbell has been a book collector for most of her life, and it is said that she created serious space problems in her father's house while she was still in her 'teens. But her collecting, to judge from the wonderful library she has assembled, has always centred on a definite purpose, namely, to build up and preserve for posterity the richest possible store of original sources of South African ethnology and history.

This magnificent library is moreover unique

among private libraries in its organization. There is a staff of three library assistants. The collections are classified in broad divisions and there is a very detailed catalogue which includes a vast number of index references to information contained in books. There is even an accessions register. In fact, all the appurtenances of a research library are there, even readers. Dr. Killie Campbell not only welcomes serious readers to her library, but she will spare no effort in assisting them. I have plenty of evidence in the correspondence files of the Cory Library for Historical Research, which I am sure many other libraries could corroborate, of the amount of trouble she has taken to obtain documentary information, not on her own behalf, but for the benefit of others. Her helpfulness, and her almost legendary store of information about old Natal families have made her a sitting target for enquiries of all sorts. Her telephone is constantly ringing. Any ordinary librarian would long since have had the phone disconnected had he been similarly placed, but Dr. Killie Campbell is not that kind of person. While her library could well be called a "special library", she is indeed herself a very special librarian.

Many libraries, great and small, and in fact scholarship in general have for centuries past owed an immense debt to private book collectors, but for whose devoted industry so many valuable books, pamphlets and manuscripts would have been irretrievably lost. We in South Africa have no less cause to be grateful for the many private collections, great and small, for which our libraries are the trustees. The Killie Campbell Library, surely one of the greatest of them all, is already in a sense a national institution, committed through the generosity of its owner to serve both the present generation of students and research workers and many generations to come.



By courtesy of Natal Daily News

Dr. Killie Campbell receiving the Honorary Fellowship of the S. A. Library Association from the Administrator of Natal (Hon. D. G. Shepstone) at the Durban Conference, 24 September 1956. (rt.) The Deputy Mayor of Durban (Councillor Jackson).

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We as a library association are deeply conscious of her outstanding achievement in creating this library, and of the value of the service she is rendering to scholarship in this country. We should like on this occasion to pay our special tribute to her as a distinguished librarian and colleague, by conferring on her the highest professional honour

which it is in our power to bestow.

It gives me very great pleasure, therefore, on behalf of the South African Library Association, to ask His Honour the Administrator of Natal to present Dr. Killie Campbell with the certificate of the Honorary Fellowship of this Association.

MOSSEL BAY LIBRARY 100 YEARS OLD

The Mossel Bay Public Library was officially opened by the Administrator of the Cape Province, Mr. P. J. Olivier, on 18 October, 1956 after re-organization as part of the Cape Provincial Library Service. In welcoming the Administrator, the Mayor, Councillor K. R. Andrews, reminded him that the Mossel Bay Library was exactly 100 years old. "The first meeting convened for the purpose of establishing a library, took place on September 1, 1856, when amongst those present was Mr. J. Vintcent, Mossel Bay's first member of Parliament. On October 13, 1856, the first committee consisting of the following members, was elected: Rev. van der Riet, Dr. Ahrens, Mr. J. Vintcent, M.P., Captain Laws, Mr. D. Bland, and Mr. M. de Graeff as Secretary.

The first building used was a store formerly owned by a Mr. Harris, and different premises were used until the present building was erected and opened by Sir Thomas Upington in September, 1894, on Crown land granted to the custodians of the library, and to be used for library purposes.

When the library was first opened in 1856, a lecture was given by the Rev. van der Riet.

The first order of books consisted of *The last days of Pompeii*, *The last of the barons*, *The disowned*, *Rienzi*, *Pilgrims of the Rhine*, *Half-hours with the best authors*, *Magazine of domestic economy*, Buchanan's *Asiatic researches*, Macaulay's *Essays*, Cloete's *Lecture on the emigrant farmers of Natal*, Rev. Cumming's *Works* and Lt. King's *Campaign in Kaffirland*. The library was forced to close between 1874-1877.

In that year it is recorded that subscriptions promised amounted to £56, and on the strength of this, a librarian was appointed at a salary of £12 p.a., while premises were hired in Church Street at £24 p.a., and books to the value of £15 added. These promises, however, did not materialize. Two bequests, one of £100 (by Advocate Porter) and one of £50 were made to the Library during its long history, and the Government of the old Cape Colony contributed £500 towards the erection of the present building.

Mossel Bay was the first municipality in the Province to join the new Provincial Library Service. (*Mossel Bay Advertiser*, 19 October 1956).

THOUGHTS ON RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY¹

by

DR. F. G. VAN DER RIET

President, S. A. Library Association, 1954-56

I THINK it is true to say that to the great majority of people who use libraries, and even more so to those who do not, the work of a librarian is a mystery, something which goes on behind closed doors in cataloguing rooms or offices marked PRIVATE-STAFF ONLY. The term "mystery" is perhaps not altogether accurate in this context, for it implies something which, being hidden or obscure, excites the imagination and invites one to probe and find a solution. The brutal fact is that not many people know, or are even curious about, what really happens in a library. Some are even so deplorably ignorant as to believe that a librarian spends all his time reading books.

The situation is very different in other professions. A great many people know, or believe they know, what a teacher does, or a magistrate, or a doctor, or even a university professor, and what they do not know from personal contact, they can learn from other sources, including popular fiction. But we have yet to find an instance of a librarian as the central figure of a best-selling novel such as "The Citadel" or "Goodbye, Mr. Chips". It may be that our position of obscurity is such as many of us would wish it to be. It is possible that many librarians see quite enough of popular fiction, and of the people who read it, not to wish to see themselves portrayed in its pages. Or it may be that a librarian does not serve long enough to become a Mr. Chips. Whatever the reason may be, it is clear that librarianship as a profession is very much overshadowed in the public imagination by other better-known, more talked-about professions.

One of the consequences of the public ignorance of librarianship, as you all know, is the difficulty of attracting enough recruits to the profession to keep our rapidly expanding library services supplied with trained staff. It would of course be wrong to suggest that

lack of publicity for librarianship is the only factor responsible for our recruiting difficulties, but everyone will agree that it is a very potent factor. Many more school pupils or university students would choose librarianship as a career if the facts about the profession were brought home to them more intimately than they are at present; in other words, if they were given the opportunity of seeing for themselves what goes on in a library, and what it is to be a librarian.

I maintain that it is the duty of every librarian to provide this opportunity by making personal contact with potential recruits, both in schools and in universities, or among readers in his library. As things are at present, many of the people who decide to become librarians do so by pure chance. In some cases they turn to librarianship as an afterthought after trying other things, and there is no denying that some of these afterthoughts have been very fruitful ones. But I suggest that we can no longer afford to leave our recruiting to chance, and that the procedure needs to be rationalized. As long as we leave things to chance, we shall never be reasonably sure that the recruits who come forward will be really suitable people for the profession. We do not want to appear too choosy in such a highly competitive market, but some form of screening would be very much in the interests, not only of the profession as a whole, but of the recruits themselves. To give a concrete instance, many of the unfortunate failures in university diploma courses in librarianship would be avoided if the students were warned well in advance of the difficulties involved, or if academically weak students were advised not to pitch their professional ambitions too high. No one is better placed to do this screening, and to give information

¹ Address delivered at the 11th Annual Conference of the South African Library Association, Durban, 24 September 1956.

and friendly advice to potential recruits than the trained librarian. But it is not enough that he should be willing and able to do this, as long as the general public remains unaware of the possibilities or even the existence of professional careers in librarianship. One hardly opens a newspaper these days without seeing a reference to the shortage of teachers, doctors, nurses, vets or engineers. But a shortage of librarians? Never.

Our recruiting cannot be rational and effective unless it is based on reliable statistical information about the number and kind of people our libraries need. A librarian interviewing prospective recruits is invariably asked what the prospects of employment are. Instead of making some vague reference to the perennial shortage of trained librarians and the great expansion of the provincial services, he should be in a position to quote the actual number of vacancies over a given period, in different grades and in the different types of libraries. Could we not ask our Education Committee to collect this information annually and to present it in suitably tabulated form in the Annual Report of the Association? And could not our Annual Report also give statistics of enrolment and certificates awarded from all the universities which offer courses in librarianship, in addition to the Association's own educational statistics? If this were done we should be able to see from year to year how the supply of trained librarians is keeping up with the demand, and we should have some factual data with which to convince recruits that a useful career awaits them.¹

The information obtained might also throw light on what I feel to be an important matter, which has perhaps not so far received sufficient attention, namely, the position of non-graduate librarians of the Associate or Lower Diploma level in our staff structure. All our training courses make provision for this intermediate stage in professional qualifications, beyond which only university graduates can go. Here are some of the questions which I should like to see answered by experienced librarians, and in particular by the heads of the provincial services: Is there not likely to be a much bigger demand for non-graduate librarians in the future, with the development of small-town libraries under the provincial schemes? Can librarianship offer a useful and reasonably remunerative career to these

people? If the answer is a fairly definite yes, then we should do more to publicise the opportunities in librarianship for non-graduates, that is, persons who have no prospect of ever taking a degree; more than we have done, for instance, in our recruiting pamphlet, "Library work as a career". From my own experience, which of course is limited to one library, our shortage of trained staff for senior posts is aggravated by frequent changes among the junior, "sub-professional" staff. By opening the door a bit wider to non-graduates we might encourage more people to fill the junior posts on a long-term basis, and we hope with fairly good salary prospects. This would have the effect of relieving the senior librarians of a lot of the time-consuming work of training and supervising new assistants.

I began this address on the theme of the public ignorance of the profession of librarianship, and I should like now to revert to this theme with a slightly different approach: Why is the public so ignorant about librarianship, and what can be done remedy the position? A recent article in *ASLIB Proceedings* contains the following passage which seems to me to suggest the answer:

"It has seemed to me for some time that librarians, in the broadest sense of the term, discuss their problems, intentions and methods too much among themselves and too little with the public they set out to serve... There is here something of a vicious circle, for the profession has not sufficiently captured the public imagination for articles on it to be welcome in the popular Press, and librarians continue, therefore, to contribute mainly to library journals; yet how is public interest to be stimulated except by articles in more widely read publications?... Certainly the circle must somehow be broken, for its effect is unfortunate, in that as the profession becomes more esoteric, understanding diminishes while the need for it increases".²

I call your attention particularly to that splendid word "esoteric", which the dictionary defines as "designed for, and understood by,

¹ See Mrs. Wertheimer's article, *infra*, p. 77.

² Barbara Kyle, "The rights and duties of readers and librarians" in *ASLIB Proceedings*, v. 8, no. 1, February 1956, p. 51.

the specially initiated alone". If librarianship is indeed an esoteric profession in the sense of this definition, then that is one of its essential weaknesses. A profession which is so wholly committed to service to the public and so dependent on public support as librarianship is, has no business to be esoteric. It has everything to gain from a more sympathetic interest and understanding on the part of the public. Perhaps it is not entirely the fault of librarians if their profession has not hitherto "captured the public imagination", but it is certainly their responsibility to promote public knowledge of librarianship, to "sell" librarianship at every opportunity and by every means open to them, whether by direct evangelization or by subtle fifth-column tactics. I can suggest several methods which might be effectively used:

Firstly, there might be articles in the Press or popular periodicals. If one has to be realistic and admit, like the author of the passage I have quoted, that articles about librarianship as such would have little chance of being published, why not, alternatively, a series of authoritative articles on outstanding library developments in the Union (for instance, the new provincial services) in which the part played by librarians and the difficulty of obtaining qualified staff would be given suitable prominence? The evidence of the *Index to South African periodicals* shows that there is room for many more articles of this type, outside our professional literature.

Secondly, no librarian should let pass an opportunity of addressing gatherings of school pupils, or meetings of Rotary, the N.C.W.

and similar organizations, on the subject of his work.

Finally, both public and university libraries should co-operate more actively than at present with the school libraries, and should assist especially in their work of educating young readers in the proper use of libraries. The example of Sheffield¹ (and possibly other cities in England) should be followed, and arrangements made for groups of school pupils to visit the public libraries and be given organized instruction in the use of catalogues and reference books, with some judicious peeps behind the scenes into the workings of a library. To the youth of Sheffield this has proved a novel and illuminating experience, and there is no reason why the same should not be true here.

In what I am going to say I am reminded of the man in a *New Yorker* cartoon who went to a psycho-analyst complaining of an inferiority complex. The analyst had him on the couch for a few minutes and then announced triumphantly: "But you *are* inferior!" I think that as a profession we are inclined to be rather self-effacing, almost timid. We suffer perhaps from a "poor relation complex", aggravated by the lack of public interest in our work. But there is no need for psycho-analysis. All that we need to do is to look at the facts of the development of our libraries, in every single direction, over the last twenty years to realise that we are no poor relation. Ours may be a comparatively small profession, but I doubt whether any other profession in South Africa can show quite such a record of progress in so short a time.

¹ Sheffield. City. Education and libraries, art galleries and museums joint sub-committee. *Instruction classes in the use of books and libraries, an explanatory brochure for teachers*. 8p. 1956.

SOME ASPECTS OF RECRUITING FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

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HOW DEPENDENT upon librarians is the success of the Union's library development? Can libraries really be run without trained librarians? To-day many of our libraries are manned by people who have had no formal training and yet we make progress: more books, more buildings, more borrowers—growth in quantities. But when the question becomes one of qualitative growth where shall we be? Will a great wealth lie in our libraries unexploited through the lack of skilled personnel? How many librarians do we, shall we need in South Africa? Of what kinds? Are we recruiting into the profession enough? almost enough? or not nearly enough? The library situation has changed so radically in the last two or three years that studies made as recently as 1953 cannot be depended upon entirely for answers to these questions. The degree of urgency in the need for recruits must constantly be reassessed, and so must our efforts towards securing them. This note, therefore, discusses the question in the light of 1956 figures and presents one or two suggestions for the possible alleviation of what gives promise of becoming otherwise an acutely chronic problem.

The need

Some indication of the seriousness of the situation was given by Mr. R. F. Kennedy in 1953.¹ Of a total of 321 posts for which a diploma or intermediate certificate was required, 199 were filled by qualified people. Annual wastage, i.e. members lost to the profession through marriage and other causes, was estimated at 64 or 25 per cent. In that year, U.C.T. and S.A.L.A.² between them had qualified 25 students in the specified categories. Qualified people occupied 94 per cent of the professional posts in universities, 66 per cent in city libraries, while govern-

ment, special and small town libraries had less than half the qualified people they needed.

Mr. Friis' questionnaire to 240 public libraries in 1955 had four questions on staff numbers and qualifications. He found that although 194 libraries had only one librarian on the staff, the 46 with more than one had a total of 441 staff members. There were 174 professional posts of all types, 461 non-professional. Of the 174, 62 required full qualifications, i.e. B.A. degree plus training. Thirty of these 62 posts were filled by fully qualified people.

Since then two more universities have inaugurated courses in librarianship for both graduates and undergraduates. At the same time, both town and provincial libraries have experienced phenomenal growth. As an indication of demand, latest figures from the Cape Provincial Library Service are: 45 posts for fully qualified librarians with at present 12 vacancies; around 45 intermediate posts, all filled but only 10 with persons meeting the intermediate standard. The Cape Town City Library Service has posts for 26 qualified people with 12 filled at present by qualified librarians, 8 of these graduates. It is felt that 40 qualified librarians would be needed to run the system at the most desirable standard.

All librarians are no doubt aware of such scarcities through reading the *S.A.L.A. Newsletter* with its pages of advertisements of vacant posts. At a recent count, the U.C.T. School of Librarianship had received more than fifty notices of vacancies for qualified librarians in 1956.

¹ R. F. Kennedy. "Reflections on the history of South African education for librarianship" (*S.A.L.*, 22(2), 52-59, Oct. 1954).

² University of Cape Town School of Librarianship and S. A. Library Association, respectively.

What kind of librarians?

Since complexity is the prevailing note in South African social structure, complexity in qualifications for librarianship is not surprising. Where, in the United States, the trained librarian invariably has a degree, and in the United Kingdom up till recently almost invariably had not,¹ here, in the Union he may or may not, since qualifying courses are offered to the matriculant, to the student after one year at the University, along with the B.A. course, and in various ways after graduation, a rich choice of six different kinds of training. The situation has much to commend it since the range of skills required varies so enormously from one library to another, but it does lead to much confusion when equating or estimating is involved. Holders of the simplest qualifications cannot be considered with those holding the most advanced.

The writer has chosen, therefore, to assume a rather adamant position deriving from the professional tradition which establishes a distinct gulf between the graduate and the non-graduate. A line has to be drawn somewhere; this would seem the clearest point. It is definitely recognized that this division does not allow for all the fine distinctions which the

various library courses create; but such distinctions are for specialists in library qualifications. For the purpose of assessing personnel potential it is hoped that this division will be sufficiently precise. In the analysis which follows, students who have combined librarianship and B.A. courses as undergraduates and have spent four years in preparation are included in the graduate group. Those who have spent less than this time have been placed in the non-graduate group. One point should be emphasized: although librarians are thus divided into two groups, there is no intention to indicate the inferiority or superiority of either. Both types are essential for the success of the Union's libraries; both may or may not contribute much to librarianship, depending upon their personalities.

Numbers qualifying in 1956

Data in this section has been kindly provided by the universities involved. In most cases the basis for their calculations was somewhat different from that used here, for reasons explained above. It is hoped that the broader approach in this instance has simplified rather than distorted the picture. Apologies are extended to those who ruefully feel otherwise.

STUDENTS STUDYING LIBRARIANSHIP IN 1956

University courses	Graduates		Non-graduates		Total		Working in Libraries
	Taking courses	Finishing	Taking courses	Finishing	Taking courses	Finishing	
Pretoria	38	14	4	2	42	16	?
Potchefstroom . .	13	5	1	1	14	6	8
U.C.T.	10	9	15	15	25	24	1
<i>Correspondence</i>							
<i>courses</i>							
Univ. of S.A. . .	17	1	48	0	65	1	51
S.A.L.A.	?	2	?	9	120	11	120*
Totals	78	31	68	27	266	58	180

* Estimated

¹ The holding of a degree need not prove an obstacle, explained a recent L. A. recruiting pamphlet. To-day, however, the training programme is

attracting more and more graduates; graduates mostly untrained, have always been in scholarly libraries.

The S.A.L.A. figures require some explanation. Those available are for the numbers of papers written, 105 Elementary, 65 Intermediate and 34 Final. The total number of candidates was 120. Time and facilities did not permit the analysis of the 120 into graduates and non-graduates.

As for the purpose of these figures, the perceptive reader will have reached some obvious and rather dismal conclusions which need no elucidation here.

The recruiting problem

When librarians turn their agitated attention toward securing recruits, they usually become involved in publicity schemes of one sort or another. Such publicity is essential, but it does seem possible that some numbers are lost to the ranks after the publicity has done its work. Can the way to a diploma be simplified, made inevitable, once the young person has turned his enthusiastic and industrious attention in that direction? In spite of much interest, it is often just not possible for parents to give financial assistance beyond a point, the point short of full library qualification. The figure for part-time students in the table above is a good indication of the numbers involved. Until it is financially easier for a student to train as a librarian on a full-time basis, our time and energy might well be turned in this direction.

The problem is an old one of course, and many ways of meeting it have been evolved. Training programmes have been made available at times and places of convenience to the working student. Financial arrangements for support while studying have been given through scholarships, loan funds, fellowships and work-study arrangements.

Scholarships and loans usually provided by outside organizations, are frequently rather modest but do help a little. Fellowships or bursaries for full-time study are becoming more usual, in particular the type which are generously given by library authorities – civic, institutional or Provincial, in return for the promise by the student to join the staff for at least two years after qualifying. Work-study arrangements, in which a liberal allowance of official time is granted the student for carrying as much as half the course are becoming more and more important. In non-library fields,

the training of typists in government employ is a well-known example.

All of these methods are, of course, found in this country. On the whole, however, the student here meets the problem by taking a correspondence course, and correspondence courses are recognized, even by their most ardent advocates, only as a substitute for the real thing. The recent government bursaries providing for a full-year's study are a great boon but will there ever be enough of them? The all-round situation must be improved, but how? Could practices used in other countries, especially in the United Kingdom and the United States perhaps serve as a guide?

United Kingdom

There would seem to be no lack of librarianship students in the schools in the United Kingdom. Frequently the quota of full-time students is achieved six to eight months in advance by such schools as the N. W. Polytechnic, Loughborough and Brighton. Their annual enrolment is growing while the number taking the Library Association courses remains high. In the summer of 1956, 1,741 sat the Registration exams, and 260 the Final. Of these, 172 completed the Registration, 20 the Final.

In Britain it is not very difficult to embark on the career of librarianship. To what extent this is responsible for the flourishing state of library training in that country it is not easy to say. Young people are employed with no further qualification than the equivalent of a good matric. Once appointed, they are given encouragement by the librarian who feels it his duty to promote the study of librarianship, since the L. A. Associateship is a prerequisite for advancement. Nine months' leave of absence for full-time study, or release from a certain number of hours' duty per week, are frequently granted.

Facilities for study are also generous. Eight colleges and the University of London give a full-time course, forty-five colleges (twelve in London) give part-time courses, and in addition the Association of Assistant Librarians provides tutorial assistance for correspondence students. Even so, the writer has had students on her staff in London who at times experienced difficulties in finding the course they needed, accessible to their

place of work, and given by a teacher of competence.

Financial assistance is also available from a number of sources. Under the 1944 Education Act, local authorities are empowered to make grants for higher education. These are available to students from all kinds of libraries, and may amount to as much as £200. At a more modest level, certain trusts and foundations make grants to librarianship students, while money may be borrowed free of interest from three separate funds. Leave of absence is sometimes granted with pay, with or without the condition that the student must repay the amount and/or return to work for some while after finishing his course.

In assessing the British situation, the significant point would seem to be the beginner's ability to join a library system immediately upon leaving school, and to continue from there as a member of that system. On the other hand, while the British method has its advantages for lucky and superior full-time students, the part-time courses exact a rather heavy toll in time and energy from the hundreds who work while qualifying. About 40 per cent of the L. A. candidates pass each examination. These include the full-time students who do better than the part-timers. The wastage in the latter group is therefore actually higher than 60 per cent.

United States

In the United States there is a continuing shortage of librarians although the annual output exceeds 1,400. Not only librarians are in short supply. There are not enough teachers, nurses, social workers, either. Library Schools, therefore, find themselves competing with the other schools which prepare people for jobs in the modern state. In addition most library schools feel that only the above-average student is able to complete a library course successfully and they themselves erect the barrier of "above B average". It is not surprising that library school enrolment has been showing a slight decline. Few schools are filled to capacity; but more schools are being established. Where fifty years ago the pioneering young student travelled half-way across the continent, to-day's product, more conservative and careful, prefers his training close at hand.

The library schools have, of course, been seriously concerned with this situation and in order to tap additional sources of able people, more and more schools are making their courses more easily available. This they have done in a number of ways.

Practically all the thirty-eight approved schools give courses in the summer, for teachers and working librarians to attend in their holidays—summer holidays are always for two months at least. Four or five summer courses of six to eight weeks each are required for the M.L.S. (Master of Library Science, the degree now awarded).

More schools near and in large cities (e.g. Columbia, Simmons, Chicago, California), are arranging additional courses to suit the convenience of librarians working full-time, that is, in the late afternoon, evening and Saturday morning.

The Extension Department of some universities in connection with the Library School provides lecturers at points throughout the state. At Illinois, for example, a library school lecturer is employed full-time giving courses in school librarianship to teachers. The need is for thousands of teacher-librarians; summer courses are not sufficient, nor will teachers as readily attend.

Facilities for part-time work and study are everywhere available. Some schools, those not so well known, or off the beaten track, go to special trouble to make provision for part-time work, in fact, take the responsibility for seeing that their students have work if they need it. The bigger schools connected with large university libraries, are regularly used as the source of supply for part-time library staff and as many as 65 per cent of the librarianship students may be so employed. The students are usually older and more experienced and earn quite enough to carry them through.

Recently a few schools, notably Pratt and Rutgers, have organized their whole teaching programme with the part-time student in mind. Although the rest have not gone this far, there is hardly a school which does not make a special effort to help the financially restricted student.

Even though the American library profession is much concerned with recruiting, there would seem to be nothing in the way of financial assistance comparable with the British.

A possible exception is a scheme sponsored by New Jersey libraries in co-operation with Rutgers. There are, too, the very modest grants and loans available from Library School alumnae, the Special Libraries Association and so forth. They do help a few. Some librarians take graduates, give them time to study and hope that they will stay for a year or two. Many more libraries than here regularly employ high school students to help at the counter at peak periods or for stack work. From these youngsters many a full-fledged librarian has later emerged. But on the whole, there is not, as in England, that policy among librarians of "get a good graduate and make him a librarian later."

In reviewing the American situation, the aspect which is so telling is the success of the work-study programmes. They are continuing to grow; more and more students are relying on them. They do require the close co-operation of school and library, more easily achieved because of the semester type of instruction, i.e. courses are completed in four months, and often the same course can be taken in the Spring, Summer or Winter term. Furthermore, with the U.S. rates of pay and hours of work, it is possible to complete, without undue strain but without vacations, an M.L.S. course in eighteen months or two years.

Canada and New Zealand

There is a close parallel between conditions in the Union and the other Commonwealth countries. In a few instances solutions have been found there of interest to us. In Canada at one time, the Saskatchewan government, rather than establish a school, gave grants for study, to be repaid only if the student failed to work two years in the province. In Ontario, to increase the quality of service in village libraries, the University of Toronto Library School, which is supported by the provincial Department of Education, sent a lecturer, in a book-mobile, for some weeks, to each of several points. This was not a recruiting programme but is indicative of a recruiting technique: first you catch them, then you make training inevitable.

An ideal situation would seem to exist in New Zealand. Students, carefully selected, are given their training free just as teachers there are, too. For the non-graduate the more

conventional type of correspondence course is sponsored by the New Zealand Library Association, but it is augmented by a period of study at the School of Librarianship. Much emphasis in this course is placed on book knowledge, essential for the type of work the students are likely to do.

Conclusion

In South Africa the demand for fully-qualified librarians far exceeds the supply. Even when the two new schools, now at the planning stage, are making their contribution, there will not be enough librarians unless some vigorous and positive action is taken. Of the various ways of attacking the problem, work-study arrangements, as distinguished from part-time study, would seem the most suitable for consideration for various reasons. The work-study programme seems the most readily sponsored and promoted by librarians themselves. There is evidence that more students would immediately undertake librarianship courses if satisfactory financial arrangements could be made. In addition, although the U.K. is moving as rapidly away from the work-study programme as the U.S. is towards it, this is not over-significant, for the U.K. system seldom worked on the half-time basis in connection with a fully equipped library school.

Some arrangement, too, for bringing the isolated, untrained librarian, who now struggles with correspondence courses, into contact with librarianship teachers should be attempted. The State library vacation schools cannot do enough. With the scarcity of librarians, no more than is absolutely necessary should be drawn off for teaching. The economic way would seem to be either the travelling library school or a correspondence course integrated with a school's programme.

While much of the responsibility for simplifying the approach to librarianship training lies with the library schools, much too rests upon librarians in the field. Surely we should not be content with less than the active pursuit of a staffing policy, based on the assumption that posts are to be filled not by last-minute advertising, but by a long-term programme for bringing young people into the library field - a programme designed to give them all possible assistance towards their full qualification as librarians.

DIE BLOEMFONTEINSE OPENBARE BIBLIOTEEKGEBOU

deur

MEV. G. BEZUIDENHOUT

Onder-biblioteekaresse, G. A. Fichardt Openbare Biblioteek, Bloemfontein

1875 – 1904 – 1947 – 1952 – 1954 – 1956 – Gedenkwaardige jare in die geskiedenis van die Bloemfonteinse Openbare Biblioteek !

Sedert 1875 toe die Biblioteek begin is, het hy 'n bestendige groei getoon, en op 4 September 1904 is die hoeksteen van die imposante gebou, wat aan die inwoners van die hoofstad van die Oranje Vrystaat geskenk is deur wyle mnr. Gustav Adolph Fichardt, 'n welbekende sakeman, wie se nasate vandag nog 'n leidende aandeel neem in Bloemfontein se sake, maatskaplike en burgerlike lewe, gelê.

Die Biblioteek is deur die jare in stand gehou hoofsaaklik deur inisiatief en deur betalende lede. Aangewys as die erkende Biblioteek van die Vrystaat onder die Kopieregwet van 1916, het die inrigting vroeg reeds die simpatieke steun van die Stadsraad geniet en in 1946, tydens die Bloemfonteinse Eeufees, het die Bloemfonteinse Stadsraad die Biblioteek oorgeneem om dit 'n vrye munisipale inrigting te maak en as „Eeufeesgeskenk” aan die inwoners van Bloemfontein te gee. Eers in November 1947 is uitvoering hieraan gegee – maar die Biblioteek-diens het by daardie tyd reeds die gebou, wat deur wyle mnr. G. A. Fichardt geskenk is, ontgroe.

So het dit dan gekom dat die Stadsraad in 1952 die Bloemfonteinse belastingbetalers genader het om magtiging te verkry om uit leningsfondse 'n bedrag van £32,000 te spandeer vir die opknapping en uitbreiding van die biblioteekgebou. Hierdie versoek is geredelik toegestaan, maar die belastingbetalers het uit eie inisiatief verder gegaan en te kenne gegee dat hulle te vinde sou wees vir 'n nog groter magtiging om 'n nuwe gebou daar te stel – en, omdat „mure ore het” en die ou gebou seker van hierdie besluit te hore gekom het, het die eertydse statige ou gebou, nou al amper 'n halfeeu oud, tydens 'n, vir die droë Vrystaat, ongewone reënseisoen, heftig aan die treur gegaan – tot so 'n mate dat die personeel met reënjasse binne in die gebou moes werk. Onverwyld moes daar toe afgestap word

van die opknappingsplanne, en moes die ou gebou gesloop en 'n sierlike moderne gebou in sy plek opgerig word. Die belastingbetalers het baie gou magtiging verleen om 'n verdere bedrag van £55,000 te spandeer aan die oprigting van die nuwe gebou.

Om onderbreking in die biblioteekdiens te voorkom is die gebou in dele beplan en opgerig. Die eerste gedeelte is langs die ou gebou, aan die noordekant, opgerig en bevat, benevens die ruim saal en galery wat uiteindelik die Naslaanafdeling sou huisves, kelderruimte vir die Biblioteek se waardevolle Africana- en Kopieregversameling en gerieflike werkkamers.

Na voltooiing van hierdie eerste gedeelte van die bouskema is die ou gebou ontruim en gesloop terwyl die werksaamhede, as geheel, op 5 September 1954, presies 'n halfeeu na die hoeksteenlegging van die oorspronklike ou gebou, na die nuwe gedeelte oorgeskuive is. Hierdie verskuiwing is so beplan dat die diens in die nuwe gedeelte sonder enige onderbreking hoegenaamd voortgesit kon word. Die tweede gedeelte van die skema is aangepak en op 7 Oktober 1956 kon die nuwe biblioteekgebou, is sy geheel, betrek en aan die publiek oopgestel word – weer sonder enige onderbreking in die diens.

Dit sal ons seker verskoon word as ons nou van hoogmoed en trots effe regop loop met neuse in die lug want ons is voorwaar ingenome en kan met reg spog met 'n pragtige, doeltreffende biblioteekgebou wat die Stad Bloemfontein waardig is.

Net soos die ou gebou, front die nuwe ook na die ooste en skep hy, met sy hoë vensters en sy ruim, diep stoep die indruk van lig en lugtigheid. Aan sy voorkant is die twee dele van die gebou op kunstige wyse saamgevoeg met reliefwerke deur die kunstenaars, Elly Holm, uitgevoer op leiklip met die blesbok, eie aan die Vrystaat, as motief. Aan die noordekant van die stoep is die hoofingang. Groot glas deure lei na 'n portaalsaal waar die uitreik-

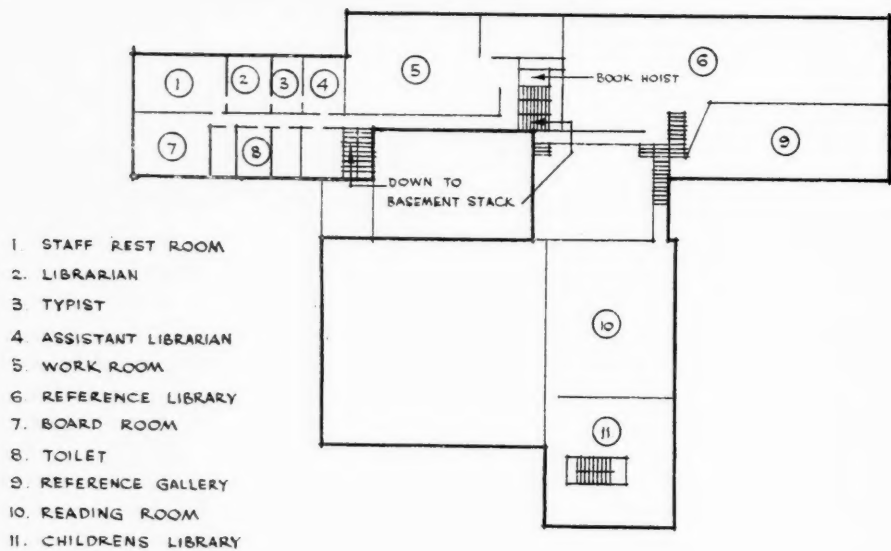


Friend newspapers

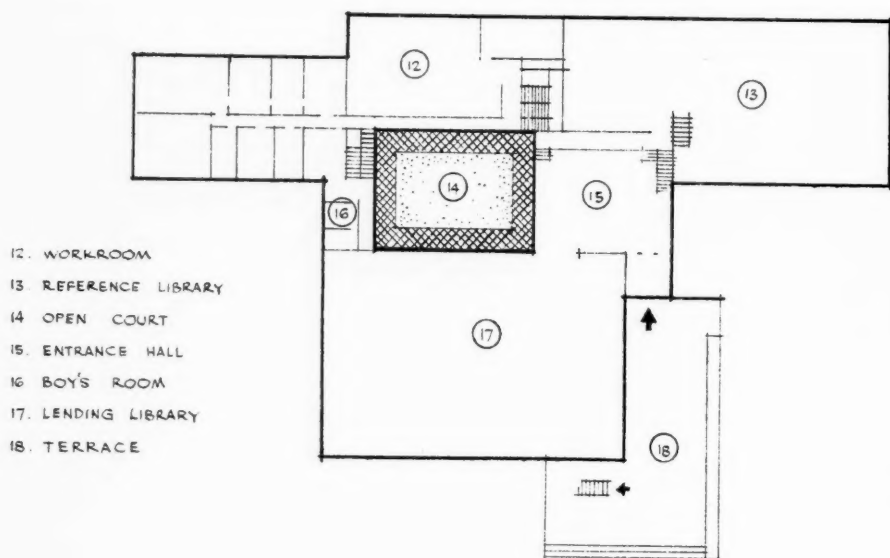
Die nuwe Openbare Biblioteekgebou, Bloemfontein

Bo : Die portaal met die uitreik-toonbank, leenafdeling in agtergrond en leeskamer met glasrame

Onder : Vooraansig van die nuwe gebou



F I R S T F L O O R



G R O U N D F L O O R

Planne van die nuwe Openbare Biblioteekgebou, Bloemfontein

toonbank en die katalogussê gehuisves is, terwyl daar in die oostelike binnemuur voorsiening gemaak is vir die marmerborsbeeld van wyle Gustav Adolph Fichardt wie in sy lewe so intens belang gestel het in die biblioteek. Hierdie portaalsaal is voorsien van dakbeligting en word aan die noordekant ingesluit deur die groot Naslaanafdeling (die eerste gedeelte van die nuwe gebou) met groot glasrame, en aan die suidekant met die ruim Leenafdeling.

Die Leenafdeling met 'n vloeroppervlakte van 4,746 vk. vt., is 'n ruim, lugtige en goed beligte saal met vensters wat strek tot bo teen die plafon, geleë aan die noorde- en suidekant van die saal. Die dakbeligting in die middel van die saal en die lae rakke onder hierdie gedeelte skep die indruk van ruimte en hoogte. Aan die suide- en noordekant van die saal is die rakke, spesiaal ontwerp en vervaardig uit Japanese-eike hout, 6'6" hoog met 'n uitskopplank van 7" hoog en die onderste rakke effens skuins. Lesers kan dus met gemak hulle boeke uitsoek.

Voor in die middel van die Leenafdeling is werkspasie vir die personeel van die afdeling ingeruim met uitstalarakke aan die voorkant en 'n skryftafel en boekrakke aan die ander twee kante en binne-in is daar vier gerieflike lessenaars vir die personeel.

Benewens die rakke is daar ook vertoontafeltjies waarop boekomslae en 'n versameling van die nuutste boeke uitgestal word asook klein tafeltjies en stoele vir die lesers om by te sit en lees. Oral is ook klein bankies tussen die rakke vir persone wat wil sit om die boeke op die onderste rakke te besigtig.

Die vloerbedekking in hierdie afdeling asook in die hele gebou is kurklinoleum terwyl die hele gebou ook voorsien is van buisligte.

Die Naslaanafdeling, met 'n vloeroppervlakte van 3,340 vk. vt. loop uit die portaal aan die noordekant en word van die portaal geskei met groot glasrame. Verstelbare boekrakke vir naslaanwerke is aangebring onder die galery aan die suidekant van die saal en onder die vensters teen die mure. Bo-op die galery word die Regeringspublikasies, waarvoor spesiale rakke vervaardig is, gehuisves. Die saal is verder toegerus met sy eie toonbank en katalogus, met rakke wat bo-op skuins loop, vir die ensiklopedeë en groot swaar woordesboeke, en met tafels, elkeen afsonderlik belig. Hierdie lokaal met sy groot vensters aan die

noorde- en suidekant, skep voorwaar 'n indruk van rustigheid terwyl die stilte verhoog word deur die askoestiese plafon wat in die vertrek aangebring is.

Van die toonbank van hierdie afdeling het die personeel 'n baie goeie uitsig oor die algemene leeskamer, wat met gemaklike trappe teen die oostelike muur van die portaalsaal na 'n halfvloer wat gedeeltelik oor die leenafdeling en oor die stoep hang, lei. Met groot vensters aan die oostekant is die Leeskamer in werklikheid 'n groot galery wat van die portaalsaal en die Leenafdeling aan die noorde- en westekant afgesluit is met groot glasrame en waarvandaan 'n mens 'n pragtige uitsig het oor die ruim, goed beligte Leenafdeling met sy veelkleurige boeke op ligte eikehoutrakke. Die leeskamer is toegerus met moderne meubels op die Sweedse styl, en voorsien van spesiaal ingeboude koerant- en tydskrifrakke. Ook hierdie vertrek skep 'n indruk van rustigheid. Voorwaar geen koste is ontsien om dit vir die biblioteekbesoeker gerieflik en aantreklik te maak nie.

Uit die Leeskamer, in werklikheid 'n gedeelte van die Leeskamer, is die ingang tot die Kinderbiblioteek. Die hoofingang van hierdie afdeling is egter aan die suidekant van die gebou waar trappe van die stoep af opgaan na die Kinderbiblioteek. Kinders wat kom boeke haal veroorsaak dus geen steuring in die leeskamer nie. Net soos daar in die res van die gebou geriewe daar gestel is vir die algemene publiek, is ook die Kinderbiblioteek met sorg beplan om dit gerieflik, gemaklik en aantreklik te maak vir die Biblioteek se kinderlesers. Benewens die spesiaal ingeboude boek- en tydskrifrakke is daar ook voorsiening gemaak vir 'n vertoontafel met kurk agterkant vir spesiale uitstallings wat van tyd tot tyd vir die kinders gereël word. Vir die kleuters wat so graag deur die prenteboeke kom blaai is daar prenteboekrakke en 'n hoekie van die saal is afgesonder waar daar net klein gekleurde tafeltjies, stoeltjies en bankies is. Hier kan hulle met lus „lees” en die tydjie geniet. Aan die een kant van die gerieflike en praktiese uitreik toonbank is die lees- en naslaangedeelte met tafeltjies en stoeltjies, effens hoër as die van die kleuters, asook 'n koerantstander, met 'n skuins blad, waarop vier koerante vasgesit kan word, en spesiale skuins tydskrifrakke. Links van die toonbank vind ons die boekrakke van die leenafdeling. Die rakke, wat 6 vt. hoog is,

is bo met kurk ingevul om 'n aanplakbord te vorm sodat prente en beskrywings oor die onderwerp van die wat op die rakke verskyn daarop aangebring kan word.

Noordwaarts uit die portaal met 'n ingang ook uit die Naslaan-afdeling is trappe op na die aangename en goed ingerigte werkkamer en die Toneelbiblioteek. Die werkkamer is toegerus met gerieflike tafels, lessenaars, gemaklike stoele, voorraadkaste en rakke; kortliks, met alle geriewe wat nodig is om die biblioteekdiens „agter die skerm” te laat vlot. Die kamer is ruim en goed belig en het hoë vensters aan die noorde-kant, en die personeel werk in aangename omstandighede wat verhoog word deur die moderne afwisselende pastelkleur-skakerings van die mure en plafon. Hierdie skakerings is deur die hele gebou aangebring en skep inderdaad 'n prettige indruk.

Met 'n lang gang weswaarts, kom ons by die kantore van die Bibliotekaresse, die Onder-Bibliotekaresse, en die tikster, al drie geleë aan die noordekant en voorsien van venesiaanse-blindings, kaste, rakke en gerieflike lessenaars.

Benewens die Raadkamer waarin 'n tafel en stoel wat sedert 1904 reeds in gebruik is nou baie goed en paslik vertoon, is daar ook 'n personeel ruskamer – met gemakstoele, 'n groot rusbank, tafels en 'n studielessenaar – waskamers, met warm en koue water, kombuis met elektriese yskas, stoof en teekan, pak-kamer en 'n brandkamer wat ook terselfdertyd dien as voorradekamer en wat voorsien is van gerieflike hout rakke.

Uiteindelik is daar nog die kelders wat die Africana- en Kopieregafdeling huisves. Die kelders is maklik bekombaar uit beide die hoofportaal en die Naslaan-afdeling en gaan met trappe na onder. Die Africanaversameling is gehuisves in 'n afsonderlike kelder wat heel-

temal vuurvry en van staalrakke voorsien is. Die ander twee, groot kelders, met vensters bokant die grond aan die noorde- en suidekant, is voorsien van spesiaal vervaardigde staalrakke vir koerante en tydskrifte en moet ook dien as magasyn vir boeke waarvoor daar min aanvraag in die Leenafdeling is. In die eerste van die kelders is 'n afsonderlike kamer waar boeke nagesien word vir inbinding.

Tussen die Leenafdeling en die administratiewe gedeelte van die gebou, is 'n vierkant met grasperk waartoe net die personeel, vir ontspanning, toegang het. Hierdie vierkant verleen dan ook beligting van die suidekant af vir die een gedeelte en van die noordekant af vir die ander gedeelte.

Dit dan is 'n poging om 'n kort woordskets te gee van die £87,000 gebou wat die Stadsraad van Bloemfontein daargestel het vir die inwoners van die Vrystaatse hoofstad; 'n gebou wat voldoende voorsiening maak vir die huidige openbare biblioteekdiens maar wat in die afsienbare toekoms verder uitgebrei sal moet word om te voorsien in die behoeftes van 'n vinnig groeiende stad waarvan die blanke bevolking reeds op 40,000 staan.

Omstandighede het dit meegebring dat uitvoering nie kon gegee word aan die beplanning van 'n gebou vir 25 jaar vooruit soos aanvanklik bedoel was nie. Hierdie tydperk moes verminder word tot minder as 10 jaar en daar is etlike geriewe wat ook vir eers prysgegee moes word as gevolg van geldelike en ander omstandighede. Ons het behoefte aan 'n vergadersaal en 'n groter kinderbiblioteek (laasgenoemde is tans 'n gedeelte van die Leeskamer) maar die hoofplan van die bou-skema, as sodanig, maak voorsiening vir 'n bykomende magasyn, 'n behoorlike Kinderbiblioteek, 'n Vergadersaal en 'n groter Toneelbiblioteek.

THE NATAL PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE AFTER FIVE YEARS

by

C. H. VERMEULEN

Natal Provincial Library Organizer

IN THE ESTABLISHMENT and development of the Natal Provincial Library Service three men in particular will be remembered for the parts they played. They are Mr. E. A. Borland, Mr. R. A. Banks and Mr. T. Friis, and they actually represent three important steps in the history of the Library Service.¹

The first step of vital importance was taken in July, 1950, when Mr. E. A. Borland, the former Transvaal Library Organizer, was seconded to the Natal Provincial Administration for the purpose of making a survey of existing library facilities and making recommendations for the introduction of a Provincial Library Service in Natal. In the course of his survey, Mr. Borland visited thirty-nine places, which enabled him to submit an exhaustive report on existing library conditions in the Province. His figures proved that only an insignificant percentage of the inhabitants in rural areas were reached by the existing library facilities and that these libraries were run under poor conditions regarding finances, bookstock and staff. Mr. Borland then outlined his recommendations for the establishment of a Provincial Library Service to ensure that all Europeans, in the first instance, and all Non-Europeans living within the Province would have the opportunity of using books. As Mr. Borland's recommendations were based on library services already established in the Transvaal and Orange Free State, and as conditions in Natal are essentially different from those in other Provinces, all his recommendations could not be accepted. Nevertheless, his recommendations did form

the basis on which the Natal Provincial Library Service was built.

The second step towards the establishment of the Library Service was the appointment in August, 1950, of Mr. R. A. Banks, formerly Director of Education, as Library Development Officer. Mr. Banks prepared a preliminary scheme for a rural library service, based on Mr. Borland's recommendations, but adapted to the particular circumstances of Natal. Thereafter, Mr. Banks informed all local authorities and other interested bodies of the scheme, and followed this by personal visits and meetings with local authorities and others to explain the scheme more fully and to answer any questions that might arise. Mr. Banks' extensive knowledge of Natal and its inhabitants was invaluable in propagating the scheme.

The actual establishment of the Library Service took place with the appointment on the 3rd September, 1951, of Mr. T. Friis as its first Library Organizer. The experience which Mr. Friis had gained as Regional Librarian in the Transvaal Provincial Library and Librarian at the Union Department of Agriculture, stood him in good stead in his task of building up the organization of the Library Service: a formidable task, which was accomplished in less than a year. A significant feature of the Library Ordinance is that it makes provision for the appointment of an advisory committee, but leaves the introduction of such a committee to the discretion of the Provincial Administration. The Administration has not applied its powers in this

¹ cp. Th. Friis, "The Provincial Library Service in Natal" (S.A.L., 20(1) 2-7, July 1952), and the *First (triennial) Report of the Natal Library Organizer*

, . . . for the period ending 31st December, 1954. iii, 37 + iii, 37 pp. Pietermaritzburg, 1955.

respect and no Library Advisory Board has been set up as in other Provinces. The Library Organizer is directly responsible to the Provincial Secretary for all matters of policy and administration.

Mr. Friis had to institute the new library scheme in rural Natal and this may be said to have been launched when in July, 1952, the travelling libraries first left from Headquarters to serve all the libraries in Natal which had become affiliated to the Service. July, 1952 marks the beginning of a remarkably prosperous period in which the Library Service expanded at an almost incredible rate. The "free library" idea was very well accepted. Many existing public libraries joined the Service and numerous library depots were also established in the smaller rural areas. As early as 1954, records were broken by the "baby" Library Service regarding the circulation figure per head as well as in the bookstock and the number of registered libraries in relation to the rural population.

This was indeed a remarkable performance, but inevitably it was achieved in width rather than in depth. I specifically say "inevitably", as this could not have been avoided in a Library Service where expansion was so rapid. On the other hand, at this stage, expansion could not have been checked without the danger of harming the future of the Library Service and the promotion of the "free library" idea. However, after the initial rush of the first two years, more attention was paid to quality of service rather than quantity. High circulation figures and a large bookstock, *per se*, were no longer regarded as of primary importance, and stress was laid on the standard of the books read and the standard of the bookstock.

As the Library Service progressed, it was necessary to review the development and in the light of the experience gained, to make the necessary adjustments to adapt our Service to unforeseen circumstances with which we had to cope. These adjustments included staffing arrangements; standardization of regional library work; a scheme to relieve overloaded regions; and a revision of the book selection policy.

Free Libraries and their membership.

The Natal Provincial Library Service is available to boroughs and townships in which

the European population is less than 10,000 inhabitants; also to health committee areas and other smaller centres of population. Thus Durban and Pietermaritzburg are excluded. When boroughs and townships join the Library Service, their existing libraries, or the newly-established libraries where there have been no existing libraries, are classified as public libraries. Libraries established by the Library Service in health committee areas and other smaller centres of population, are classified as library depots. Originally, an understanding existed between us and the Natal Education Department according to which library depots would not be established in schools. However, an agreement was reached to the effect that Government schools, outside the confines of Pietermaritzburg and Durban, may join as library depots. In exceptional cases, books are supplied to isolated individuals by means of a parcel service from the most convenient regional library.

Two cardinal principles on which the Library Service was based were that membership of local authorities and smaller areas was entirely voluntary and that local libraries, on joining the Library Service were required to lend books to the residents free of charge. The Library Service is supplementary in nature. Interference in domestic matters is reduced to the absolute minimum but we try to ensure that the standard of services rendered by the local librarians are raised.

Generally speaking, the inhabitants of Natal are known to be very conservative. One might have expected that the new idea of "free libraries" would receive a cold shoulder. But this, most certainly, was not the case. In 1950 there were no free libraries in the rural areas of Natal, and only 3.9 per cent of the total available European population were registered library borrowers. To-day, in Natal, the Provincial Library serves 31 public libraries and 201 library depots, a total of 232 free libraries. Four boroughs have not yet joined the Library Service viz. Eshowe, Ladysmith, Newcastle and Queensburgh. The former three have subscription libraries and the latter has no public library at all. There are also three townships which have not joined the Library Service, viz. Howick, Richmond and Umkomaas, all of which have subscription libraries. These seven places constitute a European population of 19,686. In spite of

this, the total European membership of the free libraries served by the Provincial Library is 49,431. That is 54 per cent of the total European population of rural Natal.

In 1951, the Estcourt Public Library was regarded as one of the best in the Province and the public libraries of Pinetown, Dundee, Stanger and Umzinto as representing the worst. Since joining the Library Service, these libraries have shown a remarkable increase in membership as the following figures prove :

<i>Name of place</i>	<i>European population (est.)</i>	<i>Membership of library in 1951</i>	<i>Membership of library in 1956</i>
Estcourt .	2,148	700	1,861
Pinetown .	5,000	299	2,921
Dundee .	2,461	172	1,777
Stanger .	686	70	480
Umzinto .	350	43	338

In the case of Umzinto, I had to communicate with the Town Clerk before writing this paper in order to obtain the latest estimate of its European population, as the latest figure given in the Official South African Year Book is less than the present membership of this library.

Bookstock

Our book selection committee includes three qualified librarians. This committee meets regularly and two of the qualified librarians make fortnightly visits to the Durban booksellers and weekly visits to the Pietermaritzburg bookseller. These booksellers supply all our current English titles, which are inspected personally by our officers before being purchased. Special titles, which are not normally supplied by the Natal booksellers are ordered from overseas through the Pietermaritzburg bookseller. All Afrikaans titles are ordered directly from the publishers and booksellers in other provinces from advance proof copies. Periodicals are ordered directly from the local and overseas publishers. The Librarian of the Natal Education Department assists our Selection Committee in the purchase of juvenile books for the school library depots.

Our method of buying books from the Natal booksellers has proved to be highly

unsatisfactory, because to a great extent we are placed at the mercy of the bookseller. Our selection has to be made from the selection they make from the titles offered to them by their overseas agents. We have approached overseas publishers with the purpose of procuring advance proof copies, from which we could, in future, place our orders with the local booksellers. Our purchases of light fiction have been reduced to the bare minimum. In the case of this type of book, standing orders for specific authors are to be placed with the local booksellers. This new system basically corresponds to that which is applied by the Transvaal and Cape Provincial Library Services and will transmit the initiative from the booksellers to the Library Service.

In 1950, the total number of books possessed by all the rural libraries in Natal was 108,709. Of this number, the ten libraries within boroughs possessed 51,061, half of which were described by the Borland Report as "of little value, being dirty, dilapidated, and outmoded". Twenty small libraries in townships and health committee areas possessed a total of 57,648 books, of which hardly one-fifth were worth their shelf room, according to the Borland Report. None of these libraries had their books properly classified and catalogued.

The Library Service staff drastically weeded the bookstocks and classified and catalogued the remaining books in the case of nine of the bigger affiliated libraries, viz.: those of Dundee, Estcourt, Vryheid, Utrecht, Port Shepstone, Mtunzini, Empangeni, Pinetown and Greytown. The complete reorganization of the bookstocks of all other affiliated public libraries is long overdue and will be undertaken systematically in the near future. In the meantime, some of the smaller libraries have undertaken to weed their bookstock and to bring their issuing systems in line with the provincial system.

The Natal Provincial Library Service possesses a total of 289,000 books, which are available to our affiliated libraries.

New books are received and prepared for circulation at the Library Headquarters in Pietermaritzburg. From there they are allocated to the Regional Libraries in the three Regions into which the Province has been divided. From the Regional Libraries at Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Dundee the

books are distributed to the libraries by means of the travelling libraries. Books are issued to libraries at the rate of approximately two books per registered borrower and a minimum of 250 books per library. At the bigger public libraries we endeavour to increase the issue to the rate of three books per registered member. Books are exchanged at regular intervals to ensure that the stock at libraries is kept fresh. Local librarians are encouraged consistently by our Regional Librarians to improve the standard of their bookstock by selecting more non-fiction books and again to encourage their readers to read more non-fiction.

Circulation of books

As has been said previously, the Library service broke records as early in its history as 1954, when, *inter alia*, the average circulation per member per annum was 35. Since that stage, however, more attention has been directed towards the quality of the service rather than the quantity.¹ Realising that the ultimate objective of the Service was general education, we could not be satisfied with simply leaving the initiative with the public. We have gradually and tactfully encouraged them to read books of real educational value and we have introduced various means of creating a demand for the better type of books.

We have organized book displays in conjunction with Adult Education lecture courses, with a view to promoting general education. We encourage the organizing of library days in rural communities and on these occasions make ourselves available for talks on books, reading and the library.

We have also organized "Book weeks" and lecture tours. Our "Book weeks" proved very successful. In this project the subjects were France, Italy, Holland and the United Kingdom. On these occasions we arranged extensive displays of books on these countries and distributed annotated bibliographies. We visited 20 country places and gave an informative and entertaining programme of talks, music and films to appreciative audiences. People attending these functions were allowed

to choose books from the displays, which were issued to the local librarian at the close of the function. The 20 "Book days" were attended by 4,542 people and during one of these "Weeks" 335 books were selected by the people and issued to the local librarians.

The lecture tours, which were organized in collaboration with the Natal Regional Organizer for Adult Education were not so successful. Lectures on psychology, personality development and related topics were given. We originally planned to visit 40 places, but after the 28th place, we were compelled to cancel the rest of our programme owing to poor attendances. This can partly be accounted for by the academic nature of the project and the aim of drawing the intellectuals. But we gained valuable experience and learned that lectures on specific subjects should be given by the expert and not by librarians who are laymen in these fields.

In our efforts to improve the quality of the Library Service we increased our non-fiction purchases and gradually reduced our purchases in light fiction. We realized that purchases of light fiction can not be reduced drastically, without the danger of provoking serious trouble. It has to be done gradually and tactfully. However, the result of this step was the fall of the high circulation figures. In 1955, the average circulation per member per annum fell from 35 to 32. We are not greatly concerned about this fall in circulation and while it is difficult to assess with certainty the extent to which the standard of reading has improved, our records show that the percentage of non-fiction books read has increased from 8.5 in 1952 to 19.8 in 1956. The general standard of non-fiction books can certainly be regarded as higher than that of fiction books, and they have more educational value in spite of the popular recreational nature of modern non-fiction literature. We may regard this as an improvement, but without further research it is difficult to determine how much we have influenced the standard of reading, for we do not know how much of the improvement may be due to the present popularity of certain types of non-fiction books.

¹ cp. Th. Friis, "Qualitative services: new methods of stimulating reading in Natal" (*S.A.L.*, 22(4), 126-29, Apr. 1955).

Central Reference Library and Special Requests

Our special request system was introduced for the purpose of enabling registered borrowers to obtain on loan from our Central Reference Library books dealing with special subjects and which were not normally carried by the travelling library. Borrowers make application to their local librarian, who forwards the request to the Regional Librarian. If the book requested is not available from the regional stock, the request is passed on to the Central Reference Library.

When the Provincial Library commenced to serve the affiliated libraries in 1952, its bookstock was insufficient to meet the demand. Consequently, registered borrowers were encouraged to request any book, including light fiction. This practice led to extensive borrowing of westerns, romances and thrillers from the State Library through the inter-library loan system. Requests for books grew in relation to the expansion of the Library Service and eventually reached gigantic proportions, in spite of the fact that the Service has built up a sufficient bookstock to meet normal demands. At one of our Regional Libraries, requests were received at the rate of 100 per day, and these, mainly for fiction books. In many small library depots the requests system was used as a means to obtain a large number of the current popular books, and the number of requests from these library depots often equalled their regular quota of exchange. This was done at the expense of the public libraries. Thousands of requests piled up in the Regional Libraries and eventually got beyond the control of the staff.

It was evident that our request system would have to be revised and we are now introducing a system, conforming to the original purpose of the scheme. In future, special requests will be accepted only for books which are not normally carried by the travelling library, and the type of book is specified. These will be supplied either from the Regional Library stock in the first instance, or from Central Reference Library. If the books requested are not in the bookstock of the Library Service they are either purchased or borrowed through the inter-library loan system.

We are also introducing a recommendation system whereby registered borrowers may

recommend that books which are excluded from the special request system be added to the stock of the Library Service. The readers' recommendations will serve as a guide to our Book Selection Committee in anticipating the demand for certain titles.

Staff

In 1950, Mr. Borland reported as follows: "The librarians of small boroughs and townships are unqualified and poorly paid. Funds for better payment of librarians by the small library organizations are not available as they are constituted to-day. In many cases the local librarians are completely unpaid - heroic people who carry out part-time work at the library for a few hours a week, receiving in payment the satisfaction that comes of having a few good books to read and of having assisted others to obtain something to read. The libraries would have to close if they did not help in this manner."

The position has now improved considerably. Formerly the libraries had to expend all their revenue on the purchase of books. To-day, almost the whole of the compulsory grants which the boroughs and townships make to their libraries are being expended on salaries - of the 31 affiliated public libraries six have paid, full-time librarians, viz. King'sburgh, Pinetown, Port Shepstone, Dundee, Vryheid and Estcourt. Twenty-three have paid part-time librarians, and only two still have voluntary librarians. We and the rural population of Natal owe a great debt of gratitude to the many honorary librarians of library depots, who give their services wholeheartedly for the library cause, without thought of financial reward. These people are rendering a spiritual service to their communities which cannot be measured by material means.

With regard to library qualifications of the rural library staffs, the position has not improved since 1950, as all the affiliated libraries are still run by unqualified librarians. We realize that, particularly in this respect, standards for South African libraries are essential to these rural public libraries if they are to become a vital factor in the educational and cultural life of their communities. Whilst most of these unqualified librarians have the cause at heart, they lack the background and professional knowledge which could do so much to attain this object.

The Natal Publicity Sub-committee of the South African Library Association made a drive for increasing the institutional membership of the Natal Branch of the Association. This effort not only strengthened the Natal Branch of the Association, but also served the purpose of improving indirectly the standard of rural public library services. As a result of this drive 13 affiliated public libraries and 8 Provincial Library depots joined the Library Association.

The staff position in the Natal Provincial Library Service was not very favourable until recently. Since the establishment of the Library Service we have not been able to obtain qualified librarians for the Regional Libraries and this vital part of the Service has been done by unqualified librarians, to whom great credit is due for their persistent and untiring efforts to promote and maintain a rural library service worthy of the name. From February, 1955 and until recently, the Library Service carried on with only one fully qualified librarian and for the same period was without a deputy Organizer. Now the position has improved beyond expectations. We have secured the services of a qualified librarian as Deputy Organizer, and also the services of a married female qualified librarian. In addition, one of our library assistants has now qualified.

In the early part of this year we found ourselves in difficulties when the Regional Librarian for Coastal Region, our only partly qualified Regional librarian, left the Service. This happened at the time when we were expanding the Service to 89 school library depots. This meant raising the number of libraries in Coastal Region to 114, and it created a situation that a staff of one librarian and two assistants could not cope with and still maintain an efficient service in the regular visits to the rural libraries at periods ranging from four to six weeks. The Provincial Administration appreciated the seriousness of the position and approved in principle the subdivision of Coastal Region into two Regions, viz. North Coast and South Coast. Additional temporary posts were created to enable us to meet the situation, pending the outcome of a Public Service Commission inspection at the end of this year, with the purpose of creating permanent posts for the new Region. Our persistent efforts, since 1953, to sub-divide Coastal

Region have at last borne fruit. Additional temporary posts have also been created in the Central Organization and other Regional Libraries pending the aforementioned inspection.

At present (1956) the staff position is as follows:

<i>Permanent posts</i>	<i>Permanently filled</i>	<i>Temporarily filled</i>	<i>Vacant posts</i>
7 professional .	3	3 (1 qualified)	1
11 library assistants	8	2	1
8 clerical	4	3	1
8 Non-European .	8	—	—

Apart from the above permanent posts, seven European and three Non-European additional temporary posts have been created pending the creation of permanent posts. Eight of these have been filled and two are vacant.

Finances

The total income of public libraries in the rural areas of Natal in 1950 was £6,082, which was computed as follows:

Received from Town Councils and Town Boards	£838
Derived from subscriptions	£4,683
Derived from miscellaneous sources	561
<i>Total</i>	<u>£6,082</u>

("Miscellaneous sources" includes proceeds from entertainments, street collections, fines, charges, etc.).

Mr. Borland commented as follows: "With such meagre financial resources it is not surprising that, on the whole, the bookstocks are so poor in quality, the librarians so poorly paid (or completely unpaid) and the general membership so low."

The services of the Natal Provincial Library are available to public libraries on condition that the Town Council or Town Board supports its library as follows:

- (a) financially, to the extent of a minimum annual grant computed at three shillings per head of the European population or 2½ per cent of the current assessed rates, whichever may be the less; and
- (b) materially, by providing free of charge, adequate accommodation by way of a library building or room. Library depots are established by the Library Service on condition that accommodation and an honorary librarian can be provided.

To-day, the total amount of grants paid by Town Councils and Boards to public libraries affiliated to the Provincial Library Service is £5,726. This money is expended almost entirely on salaries of librarians, as almost all the books are supplied by the Library Service.

For the information of colleagues I give a brief exposition of the estimates of the Natal Provincial Library Service for the current financial year:

Salaries, wages and allowances . . .	£16,720
Subsistence and transport . . .	2,800
Purchase of books and re-binding . . .	32,000
Grants-in-aid to libraries . . .	3,050
Other headings (including equipment printing, stationery and transport)	12,710
Total	£67,280

Grants-in-aid to libraries include £3,000 which is paid annually to the Natal Society Library in Pietermaritzburg towards the upkeep of its copyright library.

Until recently, Health Committees did not have the power to support libraries financially and materially. It was found, however, that libraries in Health Committee areas did not have the funds to cope financially with the ever-increasing demands, and recently, the Natal Provincial Library Ordinance was amended, empowering Health Committees to provide any existing library depot in its area with suitable accommodation or to make grants towards the maintenance or establishment of such a depot. The Hillcrest Health Committee has taken the lead in making a grant to its library depot.

Library buildings

Generally speaking, the position regarding library accommodation in the rural areas of Natal was fairly good in 1950. Only a few libraries had their own separate buildings but the remainder were accommodated in fairly suitable rooms. For this reason, the Provincial Library has not done much to encourage local authorities to improve library accommodation. Eight affiliated public libraries have their own library buildings. Eighteen are housed in separate rooms, and five in offices or in parts of halls provided with book cupboards. The Town Board of Isipingo Beach has taken the lead recently in erecting a grand new building especially and solely for library purposes. The local authorities of Westville, Kloof and Amanzimtoti also intend to erect modern library buildings shortly.

The Natal Provincial Library Service is fortunate in having a new Headquarters library which was specially planned for the Library Service.¹ This building cost £30,000 and its total dimensions are 15,660 sq. feet.

Northern Regional Library is accommodated in a hired building in Dundee and Coastal Regional Library in a hired building in Durban.

Non-European Library Service

It was the original intention to start a Non-European Library Service after the European section of the Library Service was well established, but the demand for such a Service arose earlier than was anticipated and the first Non-European Library depot was established in March, 1953. Since then, the number of Non-European Library depots has grown to 17 with a total membership of 1,307. The average circulation is 8 books per member per annum.

While the Non-European Library Service forms part of the Provincial Library Service it has a separate bookstock, catalogue and set of library records. Its present bookstock is 8,000. Non-European library depots are established in any borough, township, health committee area or other centre of population on condition that accommodation and an honorary librarian can be provided and that any Non-European person resident within the area served by the depot be permitted to borrow books for home reading, free of any subscription.

¹ Further details have already been given in an article by Mr. T. Friis, entitled "A milestone in Natal", (*S.A.L.*, 22(3), 90-92, January 1955).

The low reading average of 8 books per member per annum shows that this branch of the Library Service is not functioning satisfactorily. We find that the Native in rural areas is mainly interested in books written in the Zulu language and in text books for study purposes. Comparatively few books in the Zulu language are published and since formal education is outside our domain we do not purchase text books. Indians and Coloureds, on the other hand, seem to be mainly interested in thrillers and sexy books of a very low standard which we do not purchase on principle. The process of enlightenment will be slow and will require much patience and perseverance on the part of the Library Service. At the moment we are conducting an exhaustive survey of our Non-European Library Service which includes a careful analysis of the reading in each depot according to the types of books read, and also an analysis of the types of books selected by the depot librarian from the available stock on the travelling library. We have also had interviews with Non-Europeans of various levels of education, including principals and teachers of African and Indian schools. We are also making observations at the loan desks while libraries are open. Within the last two weeks we have introduced a selection of juvenile Afrikaans books into a number of Non-European depots. When we have completed this survey we hope to have secured sufficient data to form a basis for our plan to improve the Non-European libraries.

Transport

Transport is a vital factor in our Library Service. The basic feature of the Library Service is the regular visiting of the affiliated public libraries and library depots in the rural areas of Natal, and any weakness in the transport system can seriously impair the efficiency of the Library Service. We have found this, to our cost, during the first five years. Our Service has four 3-ton travelling libraries, each with a carrying capacity of from 2,800 to 3,000 books. These vehicles, with 4-cylinder engines, soon proved unequal to the strain of the heavy loads imposed upon them. Each Region was allocated one travelling library while the fourth was held in reserve as a "spare". But the frequency of breakdowns

was such that the so-called "spare" was in regular service, unless it too happened to break down.

This transport difficulty constituted a major problem and seriously challenged the efficiency of our Library Service. The situation was just kept in hand by making the fullest use of the vehicles that were fit for service, and by the perseverance of those whose duty it was to keep them on the road. The position was eased when in May, 1955, three panel vans were added to the Library Service to supplement the travelling libraries. These were fitted with shelves and have a carrying capacity of about 800 books. This addition to our transport has enabled us to keep our travelling libraries to the main roads while the panel vans serve the outlying and isolated library depots.

In the current year's financial estimates provision has been made for the purchase of a new travelling library which we hope to have in use towards the end of this year.

The future

In 1950 some Town Clerks in the rural areas of Natal declared themselves in favour of the principle that local authorities should be compelled to participate in the Library Service scheme. Natal rejected this principle and voluntary participation in, and withdrawal from, the Provincial Library Service will remain one of the corner stones of the Service.

The aim of the Natal Provincial Library Service is to become a real cultural and educational factor in the social life of the Province, so that no local authority can dispense with it without doing a grave injustice to its residents. The slogan of the Library Service will remain "We help those who want to help themselves." The public libraries and library depots have to put the educational function of the public library into effect directly. The Provincial Library Service can do this indirectly by supplementing, stimulating and co-ordinating library services in the Province, and by propagating the modern objectives of the public library through book displays, lectures, film shows and extensive bibliographical work.

The Natal Provincial Library Service is consolidating and re-orientating itself at present. The necessary adjustments are being made to ensure a more efficient Library Ser-

vice. Sufficient staff and reliable transport are being procured. New mechanical devices are being instituted to save time and labour in routine processes, e.g. automatic machines for charging issues to libraries. Bookstocks in the affiliated libraries will receive attention where necessary. The Non-European Library Service is undergoing re-organization. But these are only means to an end. They are steps towards rendering a more effective professional library service which will help and encourage the rural libraries to realize and appreciate the true objectives of a public library.

In this century of ever-growing and incalculable mass production of books and other documents, and also the increasing demand of the people for enlightenment, the responsibility that rests with librarians can never be over-emphasized. We must formulate our objectives clearly and positively and pursue them conscientiously. We can exercise an essential cultural function in society. In doing so, we shall earn the respect and appreciation of the people and enhance the dignity of the library profession.

THE GODLONTON COLLECTION

Mr. W. A. Godlonton of Umtali, Southern Rhodesia, has generously presented to the Library of the newly-founded University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland his distinguished collection of Rhodesiana. It consists of over six hundred volumes specifically concerned with Rhodesia, and appears to contain approximately four-fifths of all recorded monographs within this field. It is particularly strong in works dealing with the pre-history, discovery, and early development of the territory. The economic historian will find in the Godlonton Collection a complete set of the *Reports* of the British South Africa Company for the period 1889-1928; and the anthropologist a complete set of the *Native Affairs Department Annual*. The Collection also contains the verbatim minutes of evidence of several Commissions of Enquiry into African affairs, which will eventually be

important source material for sociologists.

Items of particular interest include Godignus' *Vita patris Gonzali Sylueriae*, published at Lyons in 1612; John Stevens' translation of Manuel de Faria y Sousa's *The Portugues Asia* published in three volumes by C. Brome of London in 1694-95; and Thomas Baines' lithographed views of the Victoria Falls, published in 1865.

The College Library has already been fortunate enough to receive the extensive collection dealing with Eastern Central Africa built up by Mr. W. C. Little of Lusaka, and the late Rev. J. L. Othenius' considerable collection of works on the linguistics and anthropology of Matabeleland. These three collections now combine to make the Library of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland already an important centre for research in almost any branch of African studies.

A SURVEY OF SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION, 1956

by

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SO MANY CHANGES have taken place in legislation affecting public libraries in the last few years that earlier articles on the subject are now out of date and misleading. This brief summary is concerned chiefly with the legislation affecting the administration and control of rural library services, the field in which there has been most development and change. It is not intended as a substitute for the acts and ordinances themselves, but as an indication of what the position is at the present time (November 1956).

Public libraries are here understood to mean libraries supported by public money, from Union government, provincial administration or local government sources, offering a free service to the members of the community which they are designed to serve.

The relevant acts, ordinances and regulations are:

A. UNION LEGISLATION

Financial relations act 38/1945
Financial relations amendment act 22/1946
Financial relations amendment act 8/1949.

State-aided institutions amendment act 47/1954 (Amending the act under which the two national libraries of the country, the South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, now fall: 23/1931).

B. PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

1. Transvaal

Transvaal provincial library service ordinance 16/1951
Administrator's notice no. 55, 18.1.56. (Rural libraries)
Local government ordinance 17/1939 (Urban libraries)

2. Natal

Natal provincial library service ordinance 5/1952
Natal provincial library service amendment ordinance 6/1955 (Rural libraries)
Provincial notice 320, 6.8.53 and amendment
Boroughs ordinance 19/1924 (Urban libraries)

3. Cape

Cape provincial library service ordinance 4/1955 (Rural & urban)
Provincial notice 543, 16.9.55
Conditions governing participation in the Provincial library service (mimeographed)
Cape municipal ordinance 10/1912 (Urban libraries)

4. Orange Free State.

No ordinance has been drawn up.
Mimeographed regulations and instructions to librarians of rural centres (Rural libraries)
Local government consolidation ordinance 15/1935 (Urban libraries)

The Transvaal local government ordinance 17/1939, the Natal boroughs ordinance 19/1924, the Cape municipal ordinance 10/1912 and the O.F.S. local government consolidation ordinance 15/1935 cover, among other matters, the powers of municipalities regarding the support and administration of independent urban libraries. They are not analysed below, as they have been dealt with in other articles and are easily available in print.

An attempt is now made to summarize the most important information from the acts, ordinances and regulations dealing with provincial library services,

A. UNION LEGISLATION

(a) Financial relations consolidation and amendment act 38/1945

This act, which supersedes act 10/1913, establishes public libraries as being the responsibility of the provinces rather than of the Union government. The following clauses are of particular importance:

3. All expenditure incurred by any province in respect of matters entrusted to that province shall be defrayed from the provincial revenue fund.
4. The funds required by a province to meet its normal recurrent expenditure . . . upon matters entrusted to it shall be derived from :
 - (a) moneys appropriated by Parliament ;
 - (b) money provided by the National Road Board under the National Roads Act, 1935 ;
 - (c) such revenues as may be raised by the province under the authority of law, and a province shall not apply its funds to any purpose other than the matters entrusted to it.
13. When and so often as it may be deemed desirable to add to the matters entrusted to a province by the South Africa Act, 1909, or by this Act, any additional matter may be entrusted to that province subject to the following provisions, that is to say :
 - (a) if it be a matter specified in the Second Schedule the Governor-General may, with the concurrence of the executive committee of that province, determine whether that additional matter shall be so entrusted.

Second Schedule

Matters the control whereof and the power to legislate in respect whereof may be transferred by the Governor General to a Province in terms of paragraph (1) (a) of section *thirteen* . . .

4. The administration of libraries . . . except the South African Library . . . Cape Town, and the Government Library . . . Pretoria.

(b) Financial relations amendemnt act 22/1946

In the First Schedule of act 38/1945 are listed "sources and matters from which a provincial council may raise

revenue, together with the power to legislate in respect thereof". The section of the amendment act which relates to libraries consists of the following additions to those items :

"A levy on any local authority for the purpose of meeting expenditure incurred by a province in connection with free library services provided within the area of jurisdiction of that local authority."

(c) Financial relations amendment act 8/1949

This amendment gives to the provinces authority for "the *establishment*, control and management of libraries and library services . . ." It will be noted that before the passing of this amendment, provinces were able to undertake the *administration* of libraries, but not their establishment.

B. PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

1. *Transvaal**(a) Transvaal provincial library service ordinance 16/1951*

This ordinance :

- i. Establishes the Transvaal provincial library service.
- ii. Establishes a Transvaal Provincial Library Advisory Board. The size of the board is at the discretion of the Administrator, who also appoints the members. Subsequent clauses deal with the frequency of meetings of the board, method of filling vacancies, procedure, etc. The powers and duties of the board are advisory only.
- iii. The outline organization of the Provincial Library Service is laid down. Provision is made for a central organization with subordinate libraries and a central reference collection; branch libraries; the incorporation of existing libraries; library depots and travelling libraries.
- iv. Power is given to make regulations from time to time, particularly in connection with the custody and preservation of library property, levying of fines, keeping of records and generally for the better carrying out of the objects of the ordinance.

- v. Separate library facilities are to be provided for Europeans and non-Europeans, but there is no compulsion to provide services for non-Europeans.
- vi. Grants-in-aid may be made to libraries not in the service, under certain conditions.

(b) *Administrator's notice no. 55 (18.1.56)*

The regulations under which the Transvaal Provincial Library Service is now working cover:

- i. Definitions.
- ii. Meetings of the Board.
- iii. Committees, i.e. committees established by the Board for the better carrying-out of any matter within its powers, subject to the control of the board.
- iv. Lending of books to public libraries. This section covers the relationship between the provincial library service and small urban libraries under the control of local authorities. Loans of books may be made to libraries in villages or towns with a European population of not more than 25,000, and although it is not explicitly stated, the effect is to leave towns of over the 25,000 mark as entirely independent urban library areas. Bulk loans of books are made for a minimum period of six months. The local authority on its side is required to provide suitable premises, and to make an annual financial contribution which varies from not less than 2s. per European inhabitant in the case of a village council or a health committee, to 5s. in an area of between 10,000 to 25,000 European inhabitants. The library is governed by the local authority or a committee appointed by it, and any European resident, employee or property owner within the area is entitled to free access to the library, and to borrowing privileges.
- v. This section details the rules governing the use of library depots.

2. Natal

(a) *Natal provincial library service ordinance 5/1952 and Natal provincial library service amendment ordinance 6/1955*

The Natal provincial library service differs from those of the Transvaal and the Cape in that the appointment of an advisory board

or committee is left in the discretion of the Administrator, who may appoint such a committee "to advise him in regard to the management and control of the Service", but is not compelled to do so. The ordinance establishes the service, consisting of a central organization, a central reference library and such regional and travelling libraries as the Administrator may from time to time determine. Provision is made for the appointment of a library organizer and staff; for the acquisition of books, furniture, equipment and other property. Existing libraries may be admitted to membership of the service, and new libraries and library depots established. Power is given to make regulations in relation to any aspect of the service.

(b) *Provincial notice no. 302, 6.8.53, and amendment*

These regulations:

- i. give the terms under which a public library may be registered as a member of the Natal provincial library service. The European population of the borough or township must be less than 10,000, and free access to the library is to be given to all European residents of the area. Financial support from the local authority is to be at the annual rate of 3s. per head of the European population, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the current assessed rates, whichever is the less. Suitable accommodation must be provided.
- ii. Library depots may be established on application in centres of population outside a local authority area, on the provision of accommodation and an honorary librarian approved by the Provincial Library Organizer.
- iii. Provision is further made for the removal of public libraries and depots from membership; the number of books to be borrowed by a library or depot; the duties of librarians and honorary librarians; and regulations governing library borrowers. The final clause provides for the establishment of non-European library depots on the same terms as depots for Europeans.

The amendment to the regulations provides for the establishment of library depots in government schools outside Pietermaritzburg and Durban.

3. Cape

(a) *Cape Provincial Library Service Ordinance 4/1955*

The Cape Provincial Library Service Ordinance is by far the most elaborate of the three. The following points are of particular interest:

- i. Definitions. "Library facilities" include audio-visual material and equipment.
- ii. A provincial library board is provided for, to consist of between 7 to 12 members, 3 of whom are nominated by different bodies, the rest by the Administrator. The powers and duties of the board are purely advisory.
- iii. The Administrator may take such steps and measures for provision of a free provincial library service as he sees fit, including the admission of public libraries to the service.
- iv. Urban areas. Whereas in the other two provincial ordinances the size of an urban area capable of running an independent service was implied rather than stated explicitly, it is here stated that if the Administrator believes an urban area of over 25,000 European population capable of supporting an independent service, such area may, with the consent of the local authority or authorities concerned, be declared an urban library area. It is also possible to declare as an urban library area two adjacent urban areas with a combined European population of over 25,000. A free library service maintained in such an area is not considered part of the provincial library system. The local authority may, however, obtain a provincial subsidy of up to 50 per cent of its expenditure on library services, provided that the Administrator has approved such expenditure for subsidisable purposes. Provision is made to ensure that in the case of the Municipality of Cape Town the approved subsidisable expenditure in any year shall not be determined at an amount which will earn less subsidy than was paid in 1955. Any local authority may also expend more than its approved subsidisable expenditure, although such excess expenditure will not earn any subsidy.
- v. Separate facilities for Europeans and non-Europeans shall be provided in urban areas, and throughout the service in general.

- vi. Although library services in general must be free, a local authority may, with the approval of the Administrator, make a charge for the use of library facilities to persons residing outside the area of the local authority.

(b) *Provincial notice no. 543 (16.9.55)*

To obtain a complete picture of the detailed running of the Provincial Library Service, these Regulations should be considered in conjunction with a further (mimeographed) document, dated 11.10.55, and titled *Conditions governing participation in the Provincial Library Service*. In this latter document are stated the mutual obligations of member libraries and the Provincial Library Service. Members must (a) provide suitable accommodation, and (b) in the case of local authorities (Municipalities, Village management boards, Local boards, Committees of local areas) an annual amount not exceeding 6s. per head of European population for the salary of the library personnel and for administration expenses. The amount may be less, according to the requirements of the community. The Provincial Library Service provides library materials, including books, 16mm. films and film strips, records, art reproductions, etc., professional advice and, if so requested, reorganization of libraries.

The *Regulations* provide for admission to the service of public libraries, school libraries and individual members. Library service is to be free. Further points covered are the amount of library materials which may be borrowed; duties of librarians and honorary librarians; regulations governing borrowing from local libraries and detailed instructions as to the formation of local library advisory committees. Local authorities controlling libraries registered with the Service are further required to frame by-laws and regulations, to provide children's libraries, to provide branch libraries in areas of more than 10,000 European inhabitants, and to provide hospital library services where prescribed by the Organizer.

4. *Orange Free State*

No ordinance has been framed. The Orange Free State Provincial Library Service operates under regulations drafted by the Provincial

Library Organizer in 1950, and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee of the Provincial Administration. In these regulations, provision is made for registered public libraries in areas of up to 10,000 European inhabitants, and for library depots. Local authorities provide accommodation for the library,

and a monetary contribution of 2s. per head of European population. Local library committees are established. The provincial library service provides bulk loans of books. In the case of library depots, the local community provides housing for the books, and a voluntary librarian.

BOOK REVIEWS

State Library, Pretoria. *List of periodicals currently received in terms of Act no. 9 of 1916 (the Copyright Act).* Pretoria, the Library, July 1956. ii, 150 leaves. *Mimeographed.*

The State Library, Pretoria, has done a useful service in compiling and making available this alphabetical title-list of serial publications received in terms of the "Copyright Act". The term 'periodical' is given the broadest possible interpretation, and the entries include such items as annual reports of commercial concerns and charitable institutions, government publications issued by the central, provincial and local authorities, university prospectuses, parish magazines, school magazines, house journals, annual directories and even newspapers. Mimeographed as well as printed material is included. Although the list is chiefly concerned with the output of publications in the Union of South Africa, a number of publications from the Protectorates and South West Africa are also included. Counting cross-references as well as main entries, there must be approximately 2,000 items in this list: like time, in the well-known quatrain, an ever-rolling stream.

The bibliographical information given comprises title, name and address of publisher, and periodicity. No attempt has been made to record volume or part numbers, holdings, or prices. As a check-list and a ready-reference tool, it is a most useful addition to our bibliographical equipment. Supplementary lists are to be issued from time to time, giving new titles; at least one has already appeared.

At this point one comes up against the unending problems facing the would-be bibliographer of periodical publications – many of them arising from their high birth and death rate, and the propensity of their publishers to change their names, addresses, printers and prices, at the slightest provocation. This list of the State Library's should therefore be used in conjunction with (a) the classified selective list of current South African periodicals last published by the S. A. Public Library as *Grey Bibliography* no. 5 in 1951,¹ and now due for revision, and (b) the lists of new periodical publications, changes of title, births, deaths and even marriages, which appear regularly in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library*.² These lists all give fuller bibliographical details than the State Library list, including price.

The assumption of copyright deposit privileges (now held by four other libraries in South Africa besides the State Library) is no small or easy matter, and apart from other considerations the list gives a good idea of the size of the problems involved in the acquisition, cataloguing, storage and exploitation of this mass of material, in which the criterion of quality is not required to be exercised.

D. H. V.

¹*Handlist of South African periodicals . . .* Cape Town, S. A. Library, 1951. (*Grey Bibliography* no. 5). 54 p. 3s. 6d.

²*Quarterly Bulletin of the S.A. Library*. 15s. p.a.

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE CAPE: THE PIONEERING YEARS, 1939 — 1949

The first phase

by

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THE STORY IS TOLD of a critic who, expatiating on the virtues of a certain literary lion, said that he stood "head and shoulders above his contemporaries". "That isn't surprising", replied a colleague. "He's standing *on* their shoulders".

In a sense, of course, we are all standing on the shoulders of our library *predecessors* in South Africa. Certainly this is so in the Cape, where men have concerned themselves with libraries for more than two hundred years. The roll of those who have contributed their services, their knowledge and their financial aid to the advancement of books and libraries, from von Dessin to Molteno, and the Rev. J. S. Ballot of George and Dr. William Robertson of Swellendam to Sir Perceval Laurence of Kimberley, and Sir Abe Bailey of Cradock and Muizenberg, is a very long one indeed. But in South Africa, recent developments in library service — as distinct from individual libraries — have had three unusual features: firstly, they have been achieved in the relatively short space of seventeen years, six of them taken up with the activities, cares and consequences of a World War; secondly, the personnel to man and develop the new services was non-existent as little as ten years ago and had to be created "from the ground up"; and lastly, those who helped to lay the foundations of the new services have not only not passed away: they are still "contemporaries", and very much alive, including those who still merrily cultivate their own library gardens. When the youthfulness of the library profession in South Africa is brought to mind, and the comparative youth of its individual members — youth with its concomitant virtues of enthusiasm, energy and self-confidence,

but youth with its short memories, it is perhaps time to set down a few of the facts and circumstances of what I have called the pioneering phase, not, certainly, of libraries, but of library service in the Cape.

In a succeeding article¹ Mr. Theo. Friis, the able and energetic initiator of the "new era" in Cape library development, refers quite correctly to the fact that before World War II the Cape led the Union in public library progress, but that in "the period of post-war optimism" the Province lagged behind — for reasons which he goes on to analyse with considerable justification. It is perhaps symptomatic that Mr. Friis, who represents the younger generation of South African librarians, should have nothing to say of the period in between — the years 1939 to 1949 — when the foundations of the Cape service were being painfully and gradually laid, at the expense of much labour, time and thought, and the conditions were being created without which the present striking progress could scarcely have been made.

This article, then, is an attempt to make a contribution to South African library history, not to write it: that can be left to some industrious doctorate-hunting library student of the future. It is also an attempt to record the part played not only by librarians, but by many laymen and -women in all walks of life, some of them no longer alive, who cherished and fostered the idea of library service in the formative years. For a participant in that work to write about it, there are dangers of which he is well aware; but the writer has gone back to original sources — minutes, memoranda,

¹ *infra*, pp. 107-111

correspondence – wherever possible, and the narrative has been counter-checked by colleagues who also took part. During these formative years, mistakes were made, and it is no intention of the writer to play these down, or justify them; if any criticism can be made, it is that through a combination of circumstances which have not hitherto been generally appreciated, corrective action was not quickly enough taken. None the less, as I hope to show, even the mistakes provided a profitable point of departure for the next generation of librarians. In making their own mistakes they will, I hope, be able to look back on them some ten or twenty years ahead, with some measure of philosophical detachment!

The bad old days

It is difficult, and probably impossible, for the librarian entering the profession in 1957, to envisage the South African library scene in 1939. The visit of the Carnegie Commissioners in 1927–8, the foundation of the S. A. Library Association in 1930, the appointment of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Libraries in 1936, and the publication of its Report of 1937: these are now historical events. In the Cape, where the tradition of libraries is most solidly founded, there was, until October 1938, no branch of the South African Library Association; the number of fully qualified librarians in the whole Province could be counted on the fingers of one hand; until the establishment of a Library School at the University of Cape Town in March 1939 there were no training facilities in the Cape other than those provided by correspondence by the Association. In those days (only seventeen years ago!) there was no free rate-supported public library in the Province; libraries and library development were not mentioned or discussed in the daily press; the Union Government made no contribution to public library funds (the grant-in-aid of £3,000 made to the South African Public Library in 1938 was virtually in respect of its copyright and national reference functions and not of its functions as a subscription library for part of the public of Cape Town). In the Province as a whole – a land-area larger than England and France put together – the public library position at that time can perhaps best be summarized in the following

statement, submitted by the writer to the first Provincial Advisory Committee, on 13 November 1941, as the result of the first library survey of its kind to be made in South Africa.

"There are 173 public libraries in the Cape Province partially supported by the Provincial Administration. They contain a bookstock of 1,191,014 books, of which 70 per cent are works of fiction, and from which nearly two million books are circulated each year (88 per cent fiction) to 24,248 subscribers (The South African Public Library received no Provincial grant, and is excepted from these findings).

"These 24,248 subscribers represent some 3 per cent of the total European population of the Province. In other words, 97 out of every 100 of the population are not members of the public subscription libraries.

"The total annual cost of the present library service is £43,965, of which 30 per cent is derived from the Provincial Administration, 12 per cent from municipalities, 7 per cent from Divisional Councils, and 43 per cent from subscriptions. The remaining 8 per cent derives from rent and other sources. The average annual cost per head of population is 1s. 1d.

"The 173 public libraries investigated have been divided into two categories: those in *towns* of more than 10,000 European population, which are able to support independent library services, and those in *rural areas*. The extra-urban areas have been divided (for purposes of analysis) into seven natural regions, each with a central organizing point."

"From this classification it is clear that the present library facilities are uneconomically and badly distributed. Libraries in 'sparsely-populated areas in the North and West serve only one or two per cent of the population; in the closely settled areas of the Transkei they serve *six* per cent. The cost per head of population of the former is 7d. and 8d. per year; in the latter it is 3s.

"Further evidence shows that many of the libraries are poorly organized, and contain much dead and worn stock. There are 200 "librarians" in the 173 libraries, but out of these only *one* is a qualified librarian. The average annual salary of these unqualified librarians in the urban areas is £117; in the rural areas it is £67. 38 per cent of the libraries are open for less than 12 hours each week; 27 per cent for

12 to 24 hours; 16 per cent for 25 to 36 hours, and 19 for more than 36 hours per week.

"Only 7 libraries have their books rebound by contract; 80 per cent say that they attempt their own repairs. Of the 128 libraries replying to the questionnaire,¹ only 57 have any facilities for children's reading. 27 have special arrangements with schools - i.e., 21 per cent of the sample.

"Each library buys its books independently, at an average figure of 5s. 8d. per book. The total number of books bought, in 1939, was 44,219.

"To summarize: The public libraries of this Province are, as a whole, not fulfilling their purpose of reaching efficiently and economically the people of the Province. This is partly due to lack of reading ability, but also in large measure to the lack of accessibility and poor organization of the libraries themselves."

The first note of challenge to this sad state of affairs to be sounded at the Cape came from two of the up-and-coming younger librarians in 1939. Mr. Ian Murray,² then sub-librarian of the South African Public Library, who had published his Carnegie Visitor's Report on a visit to the United States in 1937, had followed it up with a series of articles on modern library services in *Die Huisgenoot*.³ Mr. R. F. M. Immelman,⁴ then sub-librarian of the University of Cape Town, who had just qualified in library science at Columbia, and was equally full of reforming zeal, also published articles in *Die Huisgenoot* and gave a series of talks in Afrikaans on the South African radio. The two of them, encouraged by Miss Sarah Gold-

blatt, combined to publish the first brochure in Afrikaans on public library service: *Volksboekerye*,⁵ written primarily for the Durban Conference of the Women's Agricultural Association in September 1939, but reaching an even wider audience.

Further impetus was given through action taken by the newly-established Cape Branch of the South African Library Association, which at its general meeting in April 1939 decided to convene a public meeting on 3 June to discuss the steps to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Libraries of 1937, especially in respect of rural library services. This meeting was held in the Fairbridge Room of the South African Library, and was attended by representatives of fifteen cultural and educational societies. The Chairman was the late Mr. Paul Ribbink,⁶ who, as a former Librarian of the Union Department of Agriculture, had personal knowledge of the problems of supplying literature to the rural population of the country. At this meeting stock was taken of existing services, including those operated by the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue-vereniging and the Vroue-landbouvereniging, and two resolutions were taken: one, which in retrospect now looks like putting the cart before the horse, urging the Government to appoint a National Library Board; the other, to appoint a continuation committee to consider the establishment of a library service - either through the Cape Branch or by a separately constituted body. Members of this committee, apart

¹ See p. 105 below.

² Mr. Murray succeeded Mr. Percy Freer at the South African Library in 1930. He travelled on a Carnegie grant to the U.S. and Canada in 1936, his report being published in Cape Town in 1937 under the title of *The scope and functions of the public library in modern democratic communities*. He contributed several thoughtful articles to *South African libraries* in 1938-39, including one on "Regionalism and state assistance in relation to library service" (*S.A.L.*, 7 (2), 68-76, Oct. 1939), which had an important bearing on rural library development in South Africa. Mr. Murray also took a leading part in the activities of the committee responsible for administering a Carnegie grant for the development of Coloured library work in Cape Town. After spending a year in Europe for further library study, Mr. Murray returned to the S. A. Library, and served as first Hon. Secretary of the Cape Branch of the S. A. Library Association,

and organizer of the first Library Conference to be held in Cape Town, in 1940. From that year until 1944 he served with the South African Forces in East and North Africa and with the Army Education Service. On his return to Cape Town he decided to take up scientific farming, and has since made a name for himself as a cultivator of tulips and carnations at his Hout Bay farm. His work for the advancement of the library movement at the Cape was of great value, and should never be forgotten in our library annals.

³ I.M. Murray, "Moderne volksbiblioteekstelsels" (*Huisgenoot*, 5, 12 and 19 Augustus, 1938).

⁴ Librarian, University of Cape Town libraries and Director, School of Librarianship since 1940.

⁵ *Volksboekerye*. Kaapstad, Unie-volkspers, 1939. 35pp.

⁶ Librarian of Parliament, 1921-1949. Mr. Ribbink died in 1955. See Obituary and portrait in *S.A.L.*, 23 (2), 41-42, Oct. 1955.

from the committee of the Branch, included Professor Andrew Murray, the Misses Sarah Goldblatt and Ida Theron, and Messrs. M. Potgieter, C. J. van Dijk and D. H. van Zijl.¹

The birth of the Society for Book Distribution

At a meeting of this committee on 19 August 1939, it was decided that the Cape Branch had no power to operate a library service, and it was therefore resolved to establish a separate "society for book distribution", to ask the Trustees of the S. A. Library to house and its librarian to administer the service, and to seek financial support from public and private bodies. On 23 September a further public meeting was convened, and the Society for Book Distribution was launched on its experimental career – which at the time of writing, is still in progress, although within the framework of the new provincial library order.

The first committee of the S.B.D. consisted of Mr. Ribbink as Chairman; Professor Andrew Murray² as Vice-Chairman; Mr. R. F. M. Immelman as Secretary/Treasurer (for the first two years); and the following as members: Mrs. A. L. Geyer, Miss S. Goldblatt, Mrs. C. E. Loopuyt, Mr. C. J. van Dijk, Mr. E. T. Logie, Mr. D. H. Varley, and subsequently, Mrs. J. H. Conradie, representative of the influential Women's Agricultural Association, and widow of an Administrator of the Cape. After the first few meetings Mr. Ribbink withdrew from an active part in the Society's work, and Professor Murray came to play an important and indispensable part in linking the efforts of the professional librarians and the general public. Money and other assistance was forthcoming from the cultural bodies represented on the Society's committee; valuable support was given by the press, and notably by Mr. J. M. ("Markus") Viljoen, editor of *Die Huisgenoot*; and by July, 1940, the Society was providing a circulating box-service to 38 rural centres in various parts of the Province which had no other library facilities. Each centre paid a deposit of £1, but no subscription. It is perhaps significant that the Society adopted at an early stage the policy of buying its books in the proportion 75 per cent Afrikaans, 25 per cent English – partly because

those who asked for service were predominantly Afrikaans-speaking, but partly because the Society began with a gift of some 500 English books from the reserve stock of the S. A. Library. This service had small beginnings in a room in the S. A. Library, but it expanded rapidly, until in 1943, 78 centres were being regularly supplied and, in 1945, when it was taken over by the Provincial Library Organizer, more than a hundred.

The history of the S.B.D. can be followed in successive numbers of *South African Libraries*.³ What must be emphasized here, however, is that it was conceived as a pioneering demonstration project, not as an isolated entity. The limitations of a circulating box-service were always keenly appreciated by its sponsors. Its functions were intended to have publicity value in the sense that the work it was doing could be contrasted with the inorganic and stationary facilities provided, partly at public expense, throughout the Province, and taken advantage of by an infinitesimal proportion of the population. At an early stage, the Administrator of the Cape, Capt. F. A. Joubert, became patron of the Society, and had he lived, there is little doubt that the progress of library development during the next few years would have been immeasurably quickened. The sponsors of the Cape library movement were unlucky in that there were no fewer than four changes of Administrator in this short period, while others in authority were either preoccupied with other matters, or could not be induced to take any interest whatsoever in library affairs.

In other respects the success of the S.B.D. was something of an embarrassment. The fact that it provided a comparatively cheap service (the cheapness being due to a large measure to the fact that its administration was being carried out practically free of charge) caught the attention of the laymen, and during the first years of the Provincial Advisory Committee, when financial implications were under discussion, it was the lay members who fastened on to the conception of *redistribution of existing resources*, rather than a bold statement of eventual costs. It is easy to see this in 1957; but if anyone had suggested, in 1941, that £300,000 p.a. should be spent by

¹ Now Senator van Zijl.

² Professor of Philosophy, University of Cape Town.

³ e.g., *S.A.L.*, 8, 120-22, Jan. 1941. The Society's Afrikaans title was *Die Vereniging vir boekverspreiding*.

the Administration in providing library service, quite apart from local authority contributions, he would have been regarded as out of his mind, and the Advisory Committee would certainly have been sent summarily packing. In fact, such a stand would have brought library pioneering at the Cape to an abrupt end.

Appointment of Provincial Advisory Committee

It is now necessary to go back to the middle months of 1940 – the year of disasters, the year of Dunkirk. Some libraries were short of staff on active service (Mr. Ian Murray, one of the library movement's early and staunch protagonists, among them); all were active with the organization of "books for the troops" and similar auxiliary services. This was hardly the time for pressing the claims of an institution which was still thought of, throughout the Cape, as one of entertainment rather than enlightenment. It was, however, decided by the committee of the Cape branch (of which the writer was now Acting Chairman) to "keep the ball moving", particularly as the Administrator, Capt. Joubert, was favourably disposed to the whole question of rural library development. Early in August 1940, Professor Murray, Mr. Immelman and the present writer called on Mr. (later Senator) M. J. van Breda, M.E.C., to press for the appointment of the Library Advisory Committee, as recommended by the 1937 Inter-departmental Committee, especially as it was known that the whole matter of rural library development had been considered by the Consultative Committee of Provincial Administrators in August 1939, and that each Province had been required to conduct an enquiry into rural library conditions in its own area, for discussion at the Committee's 1940 meeting. As a result of this approach, the writer, as Acting Chairman of the Cape Branch, was asked to suggest possible names for such an Advisory Committee, and of these, the follow-

ing were accepted: Mr. M. J. van Breda, M.E.C. (Chairman), Mr. R. F. M. Immelman, Mr. A. B. McDonald,¹ Professor A. H. Murray, Mr. Paul Ribbink and Mr. D. H. Varley. To these were subsequently added: Dr. Wouter de Vos Malan,² Superintendent-General of Education, *ex officio*; Mr. A. W. van der Horst;³ and later, representatives elected by the important local authority bodies, the Cape Municipal Association and the Association of Divisional Councils of the Cape: for the former, Mr. Louis Gradner,⁴ and later, Mr. W. A. Krige,⁵ and for the latter, Mr. H. F. Malcomess (now M.P. for Kingwilliamstown), whose knowledge of and contacts with the Eastern Province, were of inestimable value throughout these years.

It is a curious reflection of the views then held by men in authority that the writers of the 1937 Report should have conceived the gigantic task of persuading the conservative Cape into library reform in terms of a librarian seconded from one of the larger libraries in the Province. The passage in the Report is worth recalling: "It is also considered essential for the successful initiation and operation of the service that in each Province a *Library Organizer* be appointed, who shall, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, supervise the organization of the service, establish personal contact with local authorities throughout the Province, and conduct the necessary propaganda. It will probably be found sufficient for the purpose, at least at the start, to make arrangements with one of the larger libraries in the Province, for the part-time seconding of a suitable member of its staff, who may also be a member of the Advisory Committee. The Organizer should be an experienced and fully trained librarian, and, as the success of the proposed rural service will depend very largely on his personal qualities, the greatest care should be exercised in making this appointment".⁶

¹ Mr. A. B. McDonald, a well-known Cape Town business man, was appointed Price Controller early in the War, and resigned from the Committee before he had attended any meetings. He died in Cape Town in 1956.

² On his retirement from the post of Superintendent-General of Education, Dr. de Vos Malan was appointed South African Ambassador to Italy, a post which he still holds with distinction. Dr. Malan, who served on the Council of the S.A. Library

Association from 1943-46, was – and is – a great friend of the library movement in South Africa.

³ Mr. A. W. van der Horst, lecturer in English at Stellenbosch University. He died in 1942.

⁴ Mr. Louis Gradner, a former Mayor of Cape Town, died in 1955.

⁵ Mr. "Wakkie" Krige, a former Mayor of Stellenbosch, died in 1952.

⁶ *Report of the Inter-departmental committee on the libraries of the Union of South Africa, 1937, pp. 12-13.*

In the Transvaal, a Library Organizer was appointed in 1944 in the shape of Mr. E. A. Borland,¹ whose experience in running the Transvaal Free Rural Service from the Germiston Public Library obviously stood him in good stead in the comparatively straightforward library terrain of that Province. Why was no organizer appointed at the Cape till 1945? Partly because no such organizer existed and there was an absolute scarcity of trained and experienced library staff; partly because the Province could or would not find the money; certainly not for lack of trying on the part of the Advisory Committee, on whose professionally qualified members fell the main burden of surveying the existing situation, and devising some workable beginning scheme. Once again, it is plain enough in hindsight to see that two librarians, both fully occupied with the problems of their own libraries (and neither the libraries nor the problems were small ones), unable to travel round the Province, and neither pretending to special knowledge or experience of rural library work, could scarcely take the place of one organizer, appointed within the Provincial framework, with no other task to occupy him. That this was not a task for "scholarly librarians", as a colleague subsequently and rather gratuitously phrased it, was obvious enough from the start. It can at least be said that not only the librarians, but all the members of the Advisory Committee did their best at considerable sacrifice of effort and time, in and out of season, and needless to say without any financial remuneration whatsoever, to wrestle with public indifference and official obstruction and even intrigue, in a Provincial Administration which has always been the Cinderella of the Union, so far as expenditure and Government subsidies are concerned. For they were determined at all costs to keep the "library idea" alive.

Work of the Committee, 1940-41

The Provincial Advisory Committee, once appointed, survived in one shape or another (and after at least one official burial) until 1949, when it was replaced by another in terms of the Ordinance of that year. During that nine-year stretch its members worked together with a remarkable unanimity; but it was throughout an *Advisory* Committee, and

its recommendations had no force of law. Every recommendation had therefore to be conveyed to the Executive Committee through the Chairman (both Mr. van Breda and his successor, Mr. "Boy" Muller were M.E.C.'s), and through the machinery of the Administration. Once decisions were taken by the Advisory Committee, the effectiveness of the paper-work depended to a large extent on the services of the administrative official seconded to this task, Mr. M. S. Leibbrandt, who carried them out conscientiously during this period as one of many other duties. This official, however, could not take the place of a Library Organizer of the type envisaged by the 1937 Committee, and as time went on the professional members felt an increasing impotence as their recommendations disappeared into the slow-grinding mill of the bureaucratic machine. This was a lesson at least one of them has learned for life.

At its first meetings, however, all was sweetness and light. On 30 August 1940 – the date of the initial meeting – the Committee learned that the Consultative Committee of the Provincial Administrations had met earlier in the year, and that Mr. Hofmeyr had stated that a measure of assistance might be expected from the Central Government for development schemes for free rural library services submitted by the respective Provinces. The Cape Executive Committee had thereupon decided to appoint this Advisory Library Committee "to assist the Administration in all matters relating to libraries within the Province", and "in drawing up estimates of costs." The first task was to make a survey of the existing situation, and for this purpose two questionnaires were devised – one on school libraries by Dr. de Vos Malan and Mr. Immelman, and one on public libraries by the present writer. These questionnaires were approved by the Committee in October 1940, and through Dr. Malan's influence, the Provincial Administration was prevailed upon to pay for their printing and despatch.

The first library survey

We hear much about "scientific" surveys to-day. It may be of interest to the present library generation to describe the information

¹ An Advisory Committee was appointed in the Transvaal in 1941. In 1944 the Committee published a brief *Survey of the libraries of the Transvaal*.

that was sought – and obtained – from the public libraries of the Province in those far-off days of 1940–41. We asked for: the name of the library, and its date of establishment; the European population of the town and district; number of subscribers within and beyond the local authority area; amount of subscription charged, and deposit, if any; special rates (i.e., for teachers, school-children), if any; number of non-subscribers using the library weekly; whether there was a section in the library for “subscribers only”; days and hours of opening; whether the library building was owned by the library authority, or rented; the size of the rooms; whether there were any branches; bookstock and circulation, distinguishing English and Afrikaans, on the shelves and in circulation on 31 December 1940; number added during the year then ended; average number circulated per month, these divided into: history, biography, current events; travel and description; fiction; volumes of magazines; children’s books; reference books; and books in other categories. We further asked for the number of books added by purchase and by gift; particulars of donations and bequests of books, money or property since the library was founded; number of books withdrawn and lost during the previous year; weekly use made of reference books; how many separate newspapers and periodicals were taken (in English, Afrikaans and other languages); whether periodicals were sold when out of date; whether there was a book-selection committee, and if so, how appointed; how books were selected; whether the library bought more than one copy of a popular book; whether there was a catalogue in printed, card or sheaf form. We asked for the number of library staff, giving sex and length of service, and whether bilingual; whether staff members were required to have professional qualifications, and if so, what qualifications; the salaries paid to staff; whether there was a separate children’s section; the number of school children using the library; any special arrangement for the use of the library by local schools; whether they were taken to repair and rebind “broken” books, and if so, by outside firms or by the library staff; and

finally, detailed particulars of library income and expenditure for the year ending 31 December 1940.

From these questionnaires a mass of information was obtained for the first time; and a similar questionnaire, circulated to the school libraries, similarly produced new information which formed the basis of a report made later by the Superintendent-General of Education, Dr. de Vos Malan.¹ The next step was to draw conclusions from the findings of the survey, both as ammunition for public enlightenment, and as a basis for a plan of action, and the two librarians now set to work on this forbidding task.

All this took some time: the questionnaires were slow in coming in; there was no official staff of any kind to help digest or summarize the resultant data; and the analysis and tabulation of the returns, which was done in such time as could be spared from an already busy day’s work, could not be hurried either. Nevertheless, on 13 November 1941, a detailed report and beginning scheme were submitted to the Advisory Committee for discussion and consideration. In the meantime the “Exco” had independently and probably unwisely circulated a minute to all municipalities in the Province asking whether they were prepared to establish free library services. Only one was prepared to do so: the others gave as reasons for rejection of the proposal, lack of funds, the conviction that the existing libraries catered for all the needs of the public, and the belief that such frivolous matters as library reform should be left over until the war had been won. These replies made it clear to the members of the Committee that it was not only the Administration, but the public, that had to be educated in the need for library reform, and that this would take some time to achieve. The conclusions from the survey, and the beginning scheme, were left over for further consideration until representatives of the Municipal Association and the Association of Divisional Councils had been appointed to the Committee.

The beginning scheme

Something should be said of the “beginning scheme”, particulars of which were eventually printed in the Report of the Committee. It must be borne in mind that in

¹ See W. de Vos Malan, “School libraries in the Cape Province” (*S.A.L.*, 10, 19–22, 45–47, 1943).

framing such a scheme the librarians were forced to work within artificial limitations: the redistribution of the moneys then being spent from all sources on public libraries within the Province; and the immediate objective was to get a demonstration scheme working as soon as possible. The recommendations begin in the following terms:

"It is the conviction of the Committee that the benefits of a free library service should be made available to every inhabitant of the Province, and that this can be done by a reallocation of the present expenditure on libraries.

The Committee believes that this can be achieved:

- (i) By re-allocating the present Provincial grant to existing libraries on a more economic basis;
- (ii) By making available to participating libraries a circulating service of books;
- (iii) By requesting the Union Government to make an annual grant to the Province on a £ for £ basis;
- (iv) By placing on the Province the responsibility of the service."

There follow the outlines of a scheme of regionalization: four main areas at least, with the all-important Provincial Organizer directing a decentralized service from headquarters in Cape Town. The whole scheme (which the reader can study for himself in the Report ¹) was worked out in detail: an elaborate theoretical exercise which it is easy to-day to riddle with criticism; but at least it was a start. Not by any means forgotten was an immediate campaign for training and grading librarians, and for the establishment of standards of service (we are talking of 1941). The salary scales recommended are (by standards of the deflated 1957 pound sterling) "enough to make a cat laugh"; but they were a start, and a great deal better than the salaries that already existed. They were also the first serious attempt in any Province to put salary scales upon a systematic basis.

The Report left out of consideration for the time being the question of library reform in the four large urban areas, and library facilities for the non-Europeans; it was intended purely a basis for immediate action. And now the long haul began.

(To be concluded)

¹ Cape Province. *Library Advisory Committee*. Public libraries in Cape Province (rural districts): survey of existing library conditions in 1940 and Report . . . Cape Town, 1944, pp. 10 *et seq.*

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE - A NEW ERA

by

THEO FRIIS

Director, Cape Provincial Library Services

BEFORE THE LAST war the Cape Province did more in regard to public library services than any other province in South Africa, but during the period of post-war optimism when the idea of free library services gained ground, the Cape Province lagged behind.¹

In 1949 this Province became the first to promulgate library legislation. An ordinance was passed whereby provision was made for a free library service throughout the province on a more elaborate scale than had been done in the three Northern provinces.

Partly as a result of the impossibility of implementing the 1949 ordinance in full, the service gradually deteriorated until it virtually came to a standstill. A small portion of the Cape Province in the North West was served from Vanrhynsdorp and Calvinia, while a start was made in serving a few places around Malmesbury. Various factors could be mentioned as having caused this frustration period. An ordinance that was over-ambitious, lack of trained personnel, lack of finance, a faulty organization structure whereby private organizations,² or the Provincial Administration directly, instead of local authorities were made responsible for the local library; a too highly centralized administrative control from Cape Town and various other factors will suffice to explain the inability of the Administration to develop the service.

To bring about the necessary improvement, and to put into effect a new approach to the function of the Public Library in our national educational programme ordinance no. 4 of 1955 was passed and promulgated in May 1955. The Cape Province is justly proud of this land-mark in library legislation in South Africa, which is regarded by some authorities here and overseas as a model library ordinance.

¹ See however the preceding article, on pp. 99 of this number (Ed.).

As a result of this new legislation the Cape hopes to take the lead in many directions, such as the expansion of its Non-European library services, the subsidising of its large cities (Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London) to the extent of 50 per cent of their expenditure, the introduction of qualitative library standards as a condition of membership, the holding of provincial training courses for librarians of small affiliated libraries, the conducting of socio-economic library surveys of its local population groups, the compilation of a provincial union catalogue, the provision of periodicals, newspapers, reference material and audio-visual material and equipment to all registered public libraries and the introduction of a special advisory children's department on its headquarters establishment.

Joint responsibility

The public library now becomes the joint responsibility of the Provincial Administration and the local authority, which establishes a new department called the municipal library department, under the direct control of the town clerk. The local authority is responsible for the following:

- (a) The provision, within five years, of suitable accommodation as approved by the director of library services;
- (b) The salaries of the local library personnel, according to a prescribed scale, and other local administrative expenses, the total sum of which shall not exceed 6s. per head of the local European population;
- (c) The provision of a minimum number of hours' service per week, as laid down by the director;

² e.g. Library committees, rather than municipal departments.

- (d) Complying with the regulations of the Provincial Library Service.

The Provincial Library Service is responsible for the following :

- (a) Complete reorganization of the local public library, including weeding of stock, accessioning, processing, cataloguing, classification and invariably the introduction of a new issue system.
- (b) Professional advice regarding the administration of the local library, regarding planning, renovation, colour schemes, etc., duties of the librarian and committee members, and the selection of periodicals and newspapers.
- (c) Training of local librarians through regular courses.
- (d) Provision of all library material including audio-visual material and equipment, such as 16 mm. sound projector, high fidelity gramophone, panascope, slide-projector, screen, art print frames, etc. The material to be supplied by periodic (4-6 weeks) visits of the travelling library and through a postal special request service.

Organization structure

To carry out the object of the new ordinance, the Provincial Library Service has been reorganized as follows (see p. 109) :

The head office of the service is in Cape Town with the Director, Production section and the Administrative section. The three control libraries are situated at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Kimberley, each of which is responsible for providing a properly equipped reference service, including bibliographic and documentation services to six regions. The eighteen Regional libraries with head offices at Vanrhynsdorp, Calvinia, Malmesbury, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Robertson, Mossel Bay, George, Beaufort West, Grahamstown, Graaff-Reinet, Port Elizabeth, East London, Aliwal North, De Aar, Upington, Kimberley and Vryburg are responsible for a properly equipped public library service within their respective regions which each include approximately 15 public libraries and 50 distributing depots together with the supply of material to 120 schools in collaboration with the school library organizer.

Development since the new ordinance

The above organization structure had been planned and new regulations had been promulgated in August 1955. The new conditions of membership together with an agreement form were devised. The library standards with which all registered members must comply were worked out and instituted.

Staff

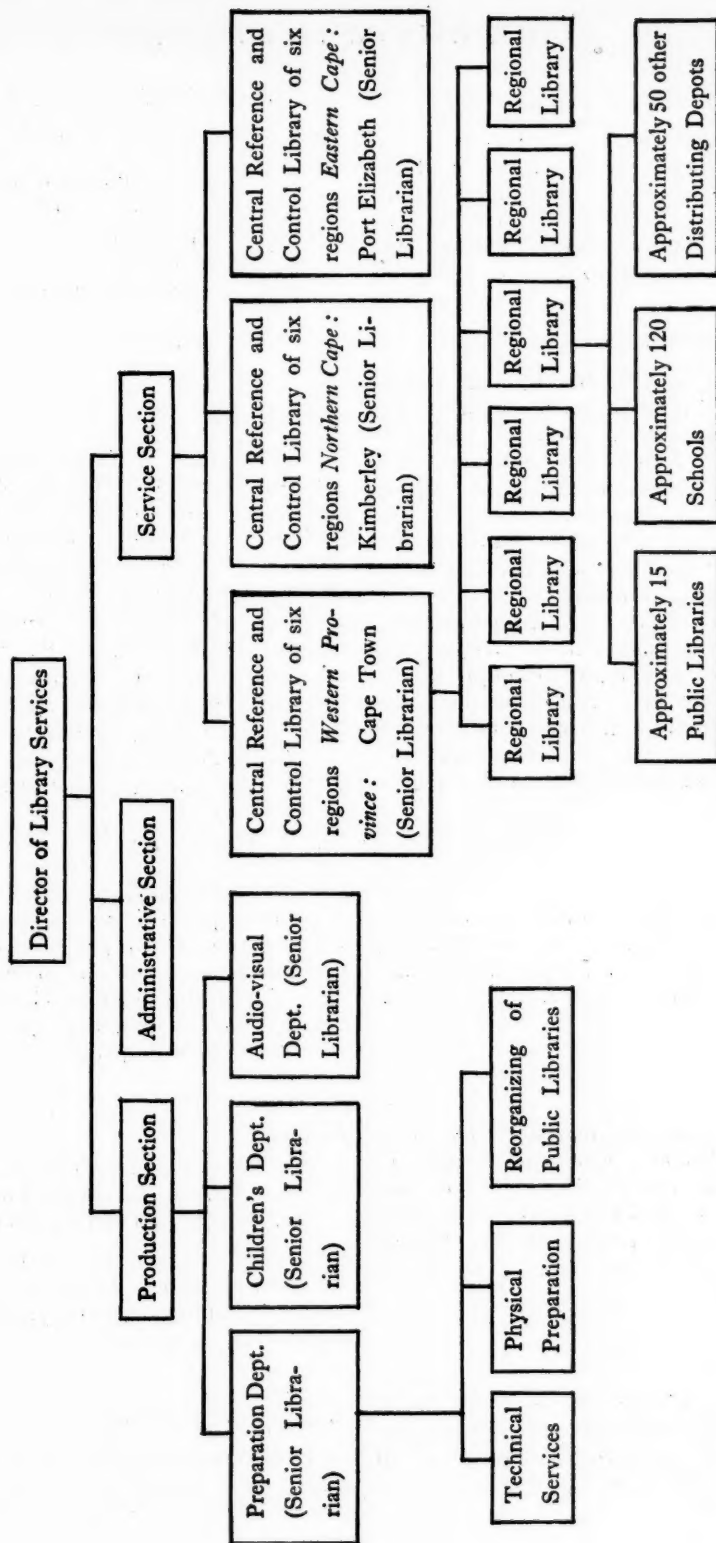
The approved establishment increased from 21 in April, 1955 to 167 in November, 1956. The 166 approved posts at present include 79 Public Service commission posts and 88 Provincial posts. 45 of the existing posts require full library qualifications as a minimum qualification.

Accommodation

As a result of the expansion the head office of the library service moved in April 1956 to a separate 5-floor building of 40,000 square feet at 48, Keerom Street. This building was renovated and replanned and will temporarily house the library service in Cape Town for the next four years. A new building of 60,000 square feet is to be erected in Pine-lands. The plans for 14 regional libraries are already in progress.

Regions

Twelve of the eighteen regions are at present in operation. A considerable amount of preliminary work has been done. Numerous local authorities have been visited and matters explained to municipal library committees, ratepayers' meetings and various other organizations. The enthusiasm aroused has been rewarding and in many cases the administrative arrangements for the new service have been completed. Each of the twelve regions now have their own headquarters building, regional staff, bookstock and equipment and a few public libraries and depots to serve. The expansion in these regions is geared to the speed at which the head office team can reorganize the existing public libraries. The remaining six regions will be started during 1957.



Transport

At the moment the library service has a fleet of 13 station (Ranch) wagons, 5 motor cars and 4 book-vans. Six new book-vans are at present under construction. 6 additional station wagons and 12 additional book-vans will be delivered during 1957.

Reorganizing of libraries

The reorganizing of public libraries started in April 1956. At present (November 1956) 16 public libraries in the new regions have been completely reorganized while many are waiting to be reorganized. As can be readily understood this is an enormous task, but the only sound way if qualitative standards are to be complied with and a provincial union catalogue to become a reality.

Once the stock has been reorganized the library is ready to inaugurate its free service, and Mossel Bay is a typical example of the result. After only two months the membership had increased from 160 to 1,588, (this number being made up of 1,004 adults and 584 children) and the circulation was 10,000 for August 1956.

Service

Together with the libraries in the first regions still operating under the old ordinance, service is now given to 70 public libraries, 164 European depots and 152 non-European depots.

Bookstock

In the meantime the bookstock has been increased to 580,000. Provincial books are processed at the rate of 35,000 per month. Plastic covers (of South African origin) protect the new books, preventing any damage to the dust-jackets and keeping the book relatively clean.

Audio-visual

Audio-visual material has not been introduced to replace books but rather to supplement them. (See article by Dr. Oppenheim in *S.A.L.* October 1956). The present stock is as follows :

7 film projectors in stock with 15 on order
6 high fidelity gramophone sets with 15 on order.
7 slide-strip projectors with 15 on order.
3 screens with 21 on order.
13 panascope sets.
6 dozen stori-viewers.
2,576 long playing records.
1,000 films.
2,500 art reproductions.

Punched cards

The library service is in the process of altering all its issue and catalogue cards to a punched card system. The machines ordered include a punching machine, a varifyer, a sorting machine, a reproducer, an interpreter, a tabulating machine and an interpolator. The reasons for introducing mechanical operation of this nature are :

- (a) To produce more effectively the necessary 200,000-300,000 cards per month.
- (b) To facilitate mechanically the sorting of cards, alphabetically or numerically.
- (c) To produce typed lists of numbers, titles, authors etc.
- (d) To make a provincial union catalogue a reality.
- (e) To make possible the stocktaking of so vast a quantity of books per annum.
- (f) For research purposes, such as the determination of reading habits and of the relevant information about the present $1\frac{1}{2}$ million potential provincial library users in the Cape.

Finance

1955 estimates £287,000 (£187,000 for books)
1956 estimates £306,000 (£140,000 for books)
1957 estimates £350,000 (£160,000 for books)

(Capital expenditure such as transport, rental of buildings, furniture for head office and new buildings is not included in the above figures).

Book distribution service

This service is still in operation and serves 250 places by means of book boxes in the remaining six regions to be opened during 1957.

Difficulties

Although 33 qualified librarians have been appointed to the staff only a few have had extensive experience.

At the present stage of our development appropriate public library experience is of the utmost importance, yet circumstances force us to appoint qualified staff without

experience and it is often difficult to use these newcomers to the profession to the fullest advantage.

On the other hand, the lack of training on the part of our country public librarians makes it almost impossible at this stage to maintain the high qualitative standard of service which is the aim of the Provincial Library Service.

South African success in Essay Prize

Congratulations to Dr. H. L. Maple, Deputy Librarian, University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg), on achieving a 'highly commended' award for his entry for the Library Association Essay Prize, 1956. The subject of the essay this year was: *Librarian: technician or bookman?* What about an Essay prize for the South African librarian? Which benefactor will provide the capital sum? What do colleagues think of the idea?

New building for C.S.I.R.

The Library of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research moved into its new building, outside Pretoria, on 5th November 1956. We hope to publish an article describing the new building, in the April, 1957 issue of this journal.

OFFSET PRINTING MADE EASY

SOME NOTES ON DOCUMENTATION DEVELOPMENTS¹

by

O. H. SPOHR

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A RECENT VISIT to Johannesburg has convinced me that it is no longer necessary for South Africans to travel to the United States or Europe to see the latest development in documentation aids; they will find them on their own doorstep. This column is being devoted to some recent advances in equipment for the execution of offset printing in the Union, most of which is either already available here, or will become so shortly.

In his article on 'The future of books in South Africa - and elsewhere,'² Mr. D. H. Varley pointed out the enormous technical difficulties that confront us even to-day in the economic production of small-edition works. After what I have seen recently in Johannesburg, I am hopeful that the "gadgets" now available will help to transform this position. Most of us know something of the electric typewriter, and its uses for producing books of limited editions. With the innovations in offset plate-making I am sure that many manuscripts now shelved for lack of the resources for printing them economically, can now be reconsidered as publishing propositions. It is, for instance, now possible to reproduce illustrative material by offset means, and whereas reproduction costs have hitherto been prohibitive, they are rapidly being reduced to suit the pockets of moderately circumstanced people - such as most of us are in libraries to-day.

¹ In February 1957 Dr. Spohr will take over the post of Medical Librarian and Deputy Librarian at the University College of East Africa (Makerere), Kampala, Uganda. We hope that it will be possible for him to continue his occasional notes on documentation developments to this journal.

² *S.A.L.* 24(1), 3-11, July 1956.

Offset machines

For some time past *Rota Print* have been re-organizing their services in South Africa, and are gradually building up a much needed network of service points all over the Union. Their excellent offset machines have hitherto not been widely known in South Africa. Some of the colour reproductions I recently watched being run off on one of the latest machines were of amazingly high quality. Incidentally, there is no longer any reason why we in South Africa should accept out-of-register reproductions executed locally.

Multilith have improved their smallest model (no. 50) very considerably by incorporating various features, such as suction feeding, from their larger models. In this way they have succeeded in making their new "baby" model - no. 55 - less temperamental and easier to work, than its forerunner.

Diazoe machines, Replex printing and offset plate making

A newcomer to South Africa is the *Copyliner*, developed and produced by the Mills Corporation, who produce the well-known *Copycat*. It produces dyeline copies from any flat original in a very short time, and multiple copies of the same at an astonishing speed - several hundred per hour. For bound books a *Contoura* or similar inexpensive reflex copy box, is essential. Prices for first and subsequent copies sound very reasonable, but costs depend, of course, on how quickly one is able to write off the expense of the original machine - some £400.

An interesting feature of this *Copyliner* is the inexpensive and rapid method of producing offset plates of the same size as the

original. It uses what is known as a positive-presensitized plate, and produces within a couple of minutes—at the mere cost of the plate—a photolitho offset plate immediately ready for the offset duplicator. Any conscientious member of the office or library staff can be trained in a short time to master the technical processes involved.

Kodaks have so far marketed only a rather large and somewhat expensive model of their *Verifax*. A smaller model, costing less than £70, having similar features to its bigger predecessor, is now being made available. *Kodaks* have decided to handle the sale of the *Verifax* themselves.

The *Retocée* process has been mentioned in this column before. Its makers demonstrated an offset plate-making attachment early in 1956, and have since overcome their teething troubles with this machine. After a couple of hints by the demonstrator I was able recently to produce within a few minutes a perfectly good plate containing line and half-tone, ready for the machine. Ordinary, not presensitized, aluminium plates are used. The only chemical required is tap water, and a patented transfer foil. If you already have a *Retocée* machine, the extra "gadget" costs something like £200. Not reckoning the depreciation of your equipment, the cost per plate seems to work out at about two to three shillings plus three minutes of your time. This is, of course, only used for same-size reproduction: for enlarging or reducing, the camera is used as in the past.

Much has been written recently about *Xerography*. This process is now available in South Africa. As the "camera" costs over £2,000, only a few will be able to afford it. The agents have however opened a service for the "less well off" in Johannesburg, and may do so in other centres as well. There are definite improvements over the machine that I was shown in the United States in 1952; for instance, half-tones come out well, and with a little engineering ingenuity one can couple it with a camera and so extend very considerably the scope of this otherwise "luxury toy."

News for the offset camera

For those who still use the camera—and for many of us it is here to stay—and for whom the purchase of a *Repro-screen* camera remains an unfulfillable dream, *Kodak* have

invented something new: the *Auto-screen film*. This has been in use in the United States for some time, and is now being produced in Great Britain. We were given a sample to try out. A small portion was put into a cassette, exposed and developed; the negative incorporated a screen. Somewhat excitedly we transferred the negative on to a pre-sensitized offset plate, and to our great delight, the first amateur half-tone reproduction to be made in South Africa came off our machine. This process will enable the reproduction of what were formerly forbiddingly expensive illustrated publications, to become economically feasible in South Africa.

An extremely useful pamphlet is the *Plate-makers' guide* for processing 3M Photo offset plates, published by the Minnesota mining and manufacturing company. The plates are now available in the Union. I watched these being used for a combination of so-called "mechanical" negatives and photographic negatives, to obtain a plate having line and tone at the same time. The mechanical negatives consist of a special type of paper in which a typewriter has pierced the shape of letters as on a wax stencil. Wherever photographic or other illustrations are required, the negatives are inserted, and the text and the pictures together are simultaneously copied in a light box on to a 3M plate.

The results, even using an old office typewriter, are most rewarding, and I suspect that the days of the wax stencil and shabby duplicating paper are numbered.

Microfilm readers

New readers I recently examined include the following: *Lumoprint* (with microstat reading device); *Zeiss Dokumator*; *Phywe microfilm reader*. These are all German-made, versatile and reasonably priced (from £60 to £100). I understand that Rhodes University have had satisfactory experience with the *Phywe* model. All three readers can also be used as projectors—a great advantage when limited funds allow for one "all-round" instrument only.

Sources of supply in South Africa

Nearly all the firms listed below have branches or agents in the principal centres in the Union. The addresses given here are all in Johannesburg.

Drawing Office Equipment, 53 Marshall St. (Retocée).
 Holtung van Masdyk, Toronto House, 110 President St. (Copyliner, Contoura).
 Kodak, S.A., 63 Rissik St. (Verifax, Auto-screen film).
 Mathieson and Ashley, Kay St., off Harrison St. South (Range of Lumoprint equipment).
 Mechanised Methods, cor. Rissik and Fox Sts. (Rotaprint offset machines).

Moore's Ltd., S.A. Transreef House, cor. Marshall and Sauer Sts (Multilith machines, mechanical negatives, xerography).
 Optical instruments, Maritime House, 97a Main St. (Zeiss, and Phywe readers).
 Ozalid, cor. Marshall and Loveday Sts. (Dyeline equipment and materials).
 Remington Rand, Manda House, 8 Kay St. (New range of electric typewriters).

BOOK REVIEWS

A. D. Roberts. *Introduction to reference books.* 3rd edition. London, Library Association, 1956. vii, 237 p. 16s.

Mr. Roberts' *Introduction to Reference Books*, which first appeared in 1948, was based on lectures given at the School of Librarianship, London. Now in its third edition, it has been considerably enlarged.

Mr. Roberts begins with a chapter on the nature and definition of reference books and reference work, and gives a timely reminder to reference assistants about maintaining a critical attitude towards the books they use: "because something is in print, it does not follow that it is accurate".

As explained in the title, Mr. Roberts is writing about reference books, therefore the main section of the work is devoted to this, and is divided by the type dealt with, such as dictionaries, newspapers and yearbooks, older British books, and so on. Scope, arrangement and many details of the background to each individual title are included. Not only are

the editions quoted usually the most up-to-date available, but many very new reference works are also included, particularly in the international field. He also gives a useful guide to the best method of tackling the more difficult reference query. In an appendix he has included "Some guides to the literature of special subjects published since 1945" since the main part of the work covers general and not specialised reference work.

His book makes no claim to being complete, but gives what should be the basic stock of a large reference library with strong emphasis on bibliographical sources. Although primarily written as a handbook for the librarianship student, it could also be of great use for the experienced librarian as an indication of gaps in the reference stock, and particularly of new editions of older reference books.

Mr. Roberts wrote with the British librarian in mind, but that should not detract from the usefulness of his book in South Africa.

D. L. IVEY

AFRIKAANSE LEKTUUR VAN DIE DERDE KWARTAAL VAN 1956

deur

D. L. EHLERS

LETTERKUNDE

De Klerk, W. A. O. *heilige onrus*. Afrikaanse pers.

Drie nouvelles deur 'n skrywer wie se werke baie gewild is en ook gewoonlik van beter gehalte is as die gemiddelde Afrikaanse ontspanningslektuur. Wat verhoed hierdie produktiewe skrywer om werklik 'n eersterangse prosaïs te word? Hy skryf m.i. miskien te maklik met die gevolg dat sy prosa soms as verheerlikte joernalisme aandoen. Soms is daar selfs bewuste mooiskrywery en ander kere 'n verrassende gebrek aan 'n juiste taalaanvoeling en dan hoor mens dat iemand in die oerwoud praat van 'n olifant „met spore so groot soos skinkborde”. Ek wys op hierdie styltekortkominge omdat ek voel dat 'n skrywer met so 'n natuurlike aanleg om 'n boeiende verhaal te vertel met meer selfbeheersing en groter taalbeheer, in staat behoort te wees om goeie prosa te skryf.

Du Plessis, I. D. en Cooper, H. R. *Die wrak van die Grosvenor*. Afrikaanse pers.

Hierdie keer is dit 'n groep skoolseuns wat help om die tergende geheim van die Grosvenor te probeer oplos. Die skrywers het daarin geslaag om van die historiese gegewe 'n aangename avontuurverhaal vir seuns en jongmense te maak.

Fouché, A. *Tiende van die oes*. Van Schaik.

Ek kan nie anders as om die moed van skrywer en uitgewer te bewonder om temidde van die opbloeï van die Afrikaanse digkuns hierdie bundeltjie die onverbiddelike daglig te laat sien nie. Hier en daar tussen onbeholpe rymelary klink 'n yl digterstem op wat opreg verlang na die eenvoudige dinge van die lewe: die ongerepte natuur, plante en diere.

Franz, G. H. Kobus. Nas. Boekhandel.

Nog 'n mooi verhaal oor 'n jong naturel deur hierdie begaafde skrywer. Mens kan miskien sê dat sy siening van die naturel te idealisties is en nie voldoende met harde werklikhede rekening hou nie, maar so 'n beswaar doen m.i. nie afbreuk aan die oortuigende harmoniese geheel wat die skrywer weet om met eenvoudige middele te skep nie.

Lategan, F. V. *Die kortverhaal en sy ontwikkeling in Afrikaans*. Nas. Boekhandel.

Die skrywer se doktorsale proefskrif is die enigste werk in Afrikaans oor hierdie onderwerp afgesien van prof. dr. F. E. J. Malherbe se *Kortverhaal as kunsvorm* wat in 1929 verskyn het. Na 'n breedvoerige verhandeling oor die kortverhaal self, volg 'n vry volledige bespreking van Afrikaanse kortverhale insluitende die enigsins opspraakwekkende onthulling van die ooreenkoms tussen Sangiro se *Uit oerwoud en vlakke* en die diereverhale van die Duitse skrywer Von Schellendorff. Dis 'n werk wat almal wat in die Afrikaanse letterkunde belangstel met genot sal lees.

Muller, E. *Die vrou op die skuit*. Balkema.

Sedert die verskyning van die skryfster se vorige boek dertien jaar gelede, verteenwoordig hierdie bundel kortverhale 'n merkwaardige vooruitgang in haar prosa. Hierdie verhale kan tot die beste gereken word wat die afgelope tyd in Afrikaans verskyn het en is ongetwyfeld een van die uitstaande Afrikaanse prosa-werke van 1956.

Nienaber, C. J. M. *Die taal as tolk*. Natalse universiteitspers.

Die hele proefskrif bestaan uit 'n stilistiese ontleding van een enkele gedig van Elizabeth Eybers. Dit is dus 'n gespesialiseerde geskrif wat vir die letterkundige vakman uitgegee is. Fisies is die boek smaakvol versorg.

Van Bruggen, J. *Die weduwee*. Afrikaanse pers.

Die derde deel van 'n trilogie waarvan *Die Damwal* en *Stryd* die ander dele is. Die werk staan nie heeltemal op eie pote nie en moet dus saam met die ander gelees word. Dis moeilik om die skepper van Ampie in hierdie verhaal te herken. Oppervlakkige sielkundige ontrafelings het die plek ingeneem van deurleefde mensebeelding. Selfs die skrywer se saaklike onopgesmukke styl kon die verhaal nie heeltemal red nie.

TAALKUNDE

De Villiers, M. *Nederlands vir Suid-Afrika*. Nas. Boekhandel.

In 'n poging om die kennis van Nederlands by Afrikaners tuis te bring het prof. de Villiers hierdie eenvoudige handleiding op versoek van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie geskryf.

Labuschagne, G. J. *Inleiding tot die strukturele metode van taalondersoek*. Nas. Boekhandel.

Jare lank het ons taalonderrig gebuk gegaan onder die dwang van die kunsmatige klassieke grammatika. Eers in hierdie eeu het 'n meer wetenskaplike benadering sy verskyning gemaak. Hierdie boek is 'n waardevolle bydrae tot die wetenskaplike literatuur oor Afrikaans en sal ongetwyfeld met vrug deur studente van die taal gebruik kan word.

Van Eeden, B. I. C. *Zoeloe-grammatika*. Stellenbosch, Universiteitsuitgewers.

Hierdie lywige werk mag nog blyk dié standaardwerk oor sy onderwerp in Afrikaans te wees. Dit behoort in elke biblioteek in ons land beskikbaar te wees.

GODSDIENS EN GODSDIENS- GESKIEDENIS

Duvenage, A. *Geloof en gebed*. Pro Rege-pers.

Hierdie smaakvolle boekie sal verwelkom word deur almal wat per geleentheid die leiding moet neem by klein godsdienstige byeenkomste. Dit bevat 'n aantal kort prekie en gebede oor 'n verskeidenheid onderwerpe in sobere, paslike taal geskryf.

Hopkins, H. C. *Eeufees-gedenkboek van die Ned. Geref. gemeente Sutherland, 1855-1955*; Sutherland. N. G. gemeente.

Sutherland is nie alleen bekend as die koudste dorp in Kaapland nie, maar hierdie vaal Roggeveld het ook meer as sy regmatige aandeel aan leidende figure in ons openbare en kultuurlewe gelever. Afgesien van dertien Evangelie-dienaars het hierdie harde wêreld manne soos Senator M. J. Vermeulen, oom Boy Muller (25 jaar lank Kaapse L.U.K.), dr. H. Olivier, vermaarde ingenieur in Oos-Afrika en die digters N.P.v.W. en W.E.G. Louw voortgebring, terwyl die digter A.G. Visser net oorkant die grens in die distrik van Fraserburg gebore is!

Keller, W. *Die klippe het dit uitgeroep!* Culemborg.

'n Vertaling van die kontemporêre Duitse treffer waarin op boeiende wyse vertel word hoedat hedendaagse opgrawings in die Midde-Ooste die outensiteit van die Bybelgeskiedenis wonderbaarlik staaf. 'n Uitsers interessante en insiggewende boek met talryke kaarte en illustrasies wat sterk aanbeveel word.

Overduin, J. *Die Evangelie vandag*. Pro Rege-pers.

'n Vertaling van 'n boek bevattende sewe lesings en drie preke deur 'n begaafde Nederlandse leraar wat Suid-Afrika onlangs besoek het. Die skrywer skyn besonder goed onderleg te wees in hedendaagse Europese geestelike stromings en sy boek bied belangrike aktuele leesstof.

LEWENS-EN REISBESKRYWING

Nicol, W. *Reënboog oor my jeug*. N. G. kerkuitgewers.

Die huidige Administrateur van die Transvaal het werklik 'n slag om 'n storie te vertel. Sy jeugherinneringe uit Robertson se wêreld is aangename leesstof. Aangesien daar so min outobiografieë in Afrikaans bestaan, kan ons net hoop dat dit nie laaste is wat van hierdie skrywer die lig sal sien nie. Dit is nou die soort boek waarop uitgewers van stigtelike lektuur hul moet toelê indien hul by die leserspubliek gewild wil word.

Suid-Afrika, land van sonskyn en land van die toekoms. Met 'n voorwoord deur M. Lessing. Nas. Boekhandel.

Die uitgewers moet geluk gewens word met hierdie moedige poging om 'n boek voort te bring om Suid-Afrika in al sy verskeidenheid in beeld voor te stel. Mens voel net jammer dat hul nie nog beter gebruik gemaak het van hierdie kostelike geleentheid nie. Sommige foto's is nie juis tipies Suid-Afrikaans nie en die gebruik van kleur geskied ook nie altyd oordeelkundig nie.

ALLERLEI

Kamfer, D. *Die All Blacks trap ons vas.* Nas. Boekhandel.

'n Aangename gesels oor die veelbesproke rugbytoer van Suid-Afrika deur Australië en Nieu-Seeland. Wie egter verwag om hier veel meer te vind as wat hy reeds uit pers-verslae te hore gekom het, sal teleurgesteld wees. Die menings wat die skrywer aan die end van die boek uitspreek nl. dat ons ons noual moet begin voorberei vir die All Blacks se besoek in 1960, laat 'n mens wonder of hy dan vergeet het dat rugby per slot van sake maar net 'n spel is waaraan 'n mens vir jou eie plesier en ontspanning deelneem.

Schoonens, J. G. *Die wêreld van die kleinste.* Nas. Boekhandel.

'n Eerste poging om 'n populêr-wetenskaplike boek oor mikrobies in Afrikaans te skryf. Mag hierdie boekie byval vind sodat uitgewers nog meer boeke van hierdie aard die lig sal laat sien. Dit sal 'n groot leemte in die huidige Afrikaanse lektuur aanvul.

Verloren van Themaat, J. P. *Staatsreg.* Butterworth.

Hierdie eerste omvattende werk oor hierdie onderwerp in Afrikaans is uiters welkom in 'n tyd waarin Suid-Afrikaners baie belangstelling toon in die konstitusionele ontwikkeling van hul land.

VERTALINGS

Been, J. H. *Paddeltjie.* Van Schaik.

Hierdie populêre seunsverhaal het reeds in 1908 in Nederlands verskyn.

Hope, A. *Die gevangene van Zenda.* Van Schaik.

Sabatini, R. *Pieter Blood, boekaniër.* Afrikaanse pers.

RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH

by

R. B. ZAIMAN

PHILOSOPHY

"SUN OF TABRIZ", selected poems by Jalalu 'D Din Rumi, trans. Sir Colin Garbett, illus. by Sylvia Baxter. Beerman.

Sub-titled "a lyrical introduction to higher metaphysics", these verses are expected by their translator to appeal most strongly to

"Qabalists, Radhaswamis, Rosicrucians" and other initiates of "arcane thought". "Metaphysics", like "mysticism", is a wide term: here, we are told it refers to something which is not a part of philosophy but a 'science'. If the work is 'mystical', it is so in the tradition of Browning rather than (as is suggested) in the tradition of Juan de la Cruz. As poetry it is jingle, rising at times to doggerel. Lavishly produced. (Reviewed by James Grieve.)

ART

Dronsfield, John. *Fifty African improvisations.* Janda.

Contrary to the thick-lined work in the previously published fifteen improvisations, these are fine-line, delicate drawings. The themes remain the same – a fantastically morbid pre-occupation with death, fear, sex and frustration. The form is African primitive, the content is Freud.

Picton-Seymour, Désirée and Webster, R. I. B. *Transvaal Republican.* Maskew Miller.

It is the aim of the book to preserve for a posterity some record of what early Johannesburg and Pretoria used to look like. Miss Picton-Seymour's delightful scraperboard impressions are concerned with the surface rather than the architecture behind the frilly ornament. Thus, in a few years' time, when the last of the old buildings have disappeared, there will remain this record of an old Transvaal possessed by such unreal and fairy-like charm that even Mr. Webster, Miss Picton-Seymour's commentator, points out that a fort near Pretoria "is not the backdrop for a romantic ballet." Her presentation of Johannesburg is purely ornamental, devoid of the rarified atmosphere and keen vitality which has been the hallmark of the old mining town since its earliest days. (Reviewed by Dr. H. L. Oppenheim.)

SPORT

Price, Maxwell. *Springboks at bay!* Longmans.

A much lighter effort than Mr. Sweet's (see below), containing too hearty and platitudinous a style.

Sweet, Reg. *The Kiwis conquer.* Timmins.

The best book written by the best South African journalist on the 1956 Springbok tour of Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Sweet had accompanied the 1951-52 Springbok tour of Great Britain, and had attended all games in which a Springbok team played since the war. Knowledgeable and sound, his style attracts even readers with a very sketchy knowledge of the game and tour, while offering the rugby purist all that he wants to know.

FICTION

Chatterton, James. *The return of the drums.* Dassie Books.

This dramatic story, set in Zululand, tells how a Bantu religious fanatic, convinced that he has been chosen to lead a rebellion that will drive the Europeans out of Africa, works up the feelings of the tribesmen into a frenzy by means of a weird drum-beat. Inevitably, violence and bloodshed follow. Nothing new on this front here. The author, a Native Commissioner, obviously knows and understands the people of whom he is writing, and the purely Native scenes are more convincing than the ones in which Europeans are involved. (Reviewed by Jean Hubbard.)

HISTORY AND TRAVEL

Bulpin, T. V. *East Africa and the Islands.* Timmins.

From the same publishers, but a considerable improvement on "South Africa" (below). This volume provides a well-balanced selection of photographs which satisfactorily serve to illustrate the contrasting nature of the East African scene. Imaginative use of the human element (so lacking in the other publication) lends life and interest to the pictures. (Reviewed by David Philips.)

Delius, A. *The long way round.* Timmins.

An account of a truck journey from Cape Town through South West Africa to the Congo and Kenya and back, which combines lightness of touch and sharp observation. The vast development of Central Africa indicated here will surprise and stimulate most South Africans. Mr. Delius' romantic approach and a mid-twentieth century searching spirit gives the serious portions of the book a peculiarly unfinished character, as if he at the last moment wavers in his choice between right and even more right – which in all truth, can hardly be otherwise in Africa. The photographs should have been far better to harmonise with the cheerful quality of this recommended book for all readers.

Green, Lawrence G. *There's a secret hid away.* illus. Timmins.

When a South African author, writing non-fiction, reaches the quarter of a million sales mark, he should be congratulated, both on his success and on his influence in quietly persuading nearly a whole nation to read about its own country. Mr. Green's success influenced the steady output of popular books on South Africa which forms such a large and welcome proportion of present-day South African English literature. In his latest work he tells lightly of some unusual personalities and events.

Smith, Anna, compiler. *Pictorial history of Johannesburg.* Juta, for the Africana Museum, Johannesburg.

Although the preface states "It is manifestly impossible in 400 pictures to record all the events of importance", the compiler must be congratulated on covering many aspects of the City's life, even to a picture of "The dog catcher in the early days". The great names of Johannesburg are here, most of the landmarks and much of the spirit. The captions, though brief, are comprehensive, giving a fascinating review of the history of each subject depicted. A book full of interest not only to Johannesburgers but to all South Africans. (Reviewed by Pat Jeffery.)

South Africa. *A pictorial tour.* Timmins.

This book reveals little justification for the optimistic assumption of the publishers that "it is the ideal gift to send to friends and will be a worthy addition to your own bookshelf." A rather stilted introduction by Mr. T. V. Bulpin leads into a series of photographs which somehow contrive to create the illusion of South Africa as a totally featureless country. The publishers have apparently leaned heavily upon tourist and publicity associations for their choice of material. The result is an unimaginative and all too familiar selection of pictures which the some-

what prosaic captions do little to enliven. The reproduction of the colour plates varies in quality from fair to bad. All this is cruelly priced at 55s. - and that in a shockingly poor binding. (Reviewed by David Philips.)

Speight, W. L. *Swept by wind wave.* Timmins.

A rather disappointing book on misadventure at sea around the South African coast. The old chestnuts (*Birkenhead*, *Grosvenor*) are rewarmed in an over-ornate style of writing. The best part of the book lies in the frequent quotations from eye-witnesses. Surely the Second World War could have contributed some important and new stories?

Wilmot, E. C. *Always lightly tread.* Timmins.

This book should be read in conjunction with "The long way round" (above), or rather vice versa. Mr. Delius in a complimentary way calls the Afrikaans South Africans the Jews of Africa, belonging completely in Africa and in this way different from all other white men Mr. Delius met on his journey. At the time his colossal exclusions struck me as rather shaky though fashionable, and in Mr. Wilmot I found the complete refutation of Mr. Delius' impression. Mr. Wilmot writes of Bechuanaland, its people, animals and vegetation with a great love which can only exist if his surroundings form part of the person. The author spent much of his life in Bechuanaland, and here deals with the area around Lake Ngami during and after World War II, when he worked for the Tsetse Fly Control Department. Such a fascinating story of a fine man's interest in every wild creature and plant is told in such a clear straightforward style that I acclaim a little classic. For South Africa the unconsciously portrayed adult relationship between black and white on the veld - perhaps unknown to city dwellers - is specially interesting. The many line drawings by C. T. A. Maberly are with few exceptions clear and full of character.

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